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My dear Little Flower,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It is a feast that lifts our eyes to the very heart of our faith: that the Cross, once a sign of suffering and death, has become the Tree of Life, the sign of God's boundless love and mercy for the world.

The Scriptures remind us of this mystery. In the Book of Numbers, the people who were bitten by serpents found healing when they looked upon the bronze serpent lifted high by Moses. This foreshadows the greater healing offered to us in Christ, who, as the Gospel of John tells us, was lifted up on the Cross so that *"everyone who believes in him may have eternal life"* (Jn 3:15). St. Paul's hymn in Philippians deepens this vision, proclaiming that Jesus humbled Himself, even to death on a Cross—and because of this, He is exalted and given the name above every other name.

The Cross, then, is both our salvation and our model for discipleship. It reveals the pattern of self-giving love that lies at the center of Catholic Social Teaching. To live the Cross is to choose humility over pride, solidarity over indifference, service over selfishness. It is to recognize, in the words of our Catholic tradition, the dignity of every human person and to work for a society where the poor, the vulnerable, and the excluded are welcomed and defended.

As families of Little Flower, this feast is an invitation to ask:

How does the Cross shape the way we love one another at home?

Where is Christ calling us to carry the burdens of others—whether the sick, the lonely, or the poor?

How can we, in our daily lives, lift high the Cross not as an ornament but as a way of life rooted in justice, mercy, and hope?

The Cross is not only about what Christ has done for us, but about what He now calls us to do for others. As we continue our month of Catholic Social Teaching, let us be strengthened by this feast: to take up the Cross with courage, to live its wisdom in our families, and to bring its light into our community.

May the Cross of Christ be our strength, our hope, and our guide.

Your parish priest,

Fr. JC Merino