

**My dear Little Flower,**

**I am pleased and honored to share the news to you that Giovanni Longo is joining our church family as the new Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry.**

**His appointment takes effect on August 15, 2024, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

**Giovanni possesses an extensive background as a Music Minister and Director within the Catholic tradition. Given his impressive qualifications, there is little doubt that he would serve as a valuable asset to our team, and a great addition to our worship.**

**Let us welcome Giovanni to our parish family!**

**As I write to you today my heart is filled with both urgency and hope. As we navigate these challenging times, I believe that the call of Jesus to step up and be a shepherd to our community has never been more pressing.**

**The world around us is in desperate need of leaders who are willing to embrace the mantle of servanthood. Leaders who are not afraid to love unconditionally and serve selflessly. Leaders who are committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive community where all are valued and respected.**

**Our parish ministries have sustained our parish in this missionary initiative; they have the potential to be beacons of hope in our community and beyond. They can be places where people of all ages, races, and backgrounds can come together to experience the love and grace of God. But this can only happen if we, as Christian leaders, are willing to step up and answer the call.**

**I urge you to consider how you can use your gifts and talents to make a difference in the lives of others. Whether it's through leading a Bible study, serving the community as mentor and/or catechist to our children, volunteering at a soup kitchen, or simply reaching out to a neighbor in need, every act of love and service makes a difference.**

**Let us not be deterred by our own doubts, limitations, and the challenges that we face. Remember that Jesus "does not usually call the qualified - rather, He qualifies whom he calls". He calls you today to step up to be a leader. Let us be inspired by the example of Jesus, who laid down His life for us. Let us be motivated by the love of God, which compels us to reach out to others.**

**Together, we can create a community where everyone feels loved, supported, and valued. A community where people can come to know the transforming power of God's grace.**

**I believe that we can do this. But it will require each of us to step up and be the leader - the good shepherd - that God has called us to be.**

**You parish priest,  
Fr JC Merino**