

**PASTORAL LETTER:
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

~ October 5 , 2025 ~

“October Feast: Faith is Celebration”

My dear Little Flower,

As the month of October begins, our hearts turn with joy and gratitude to the celebration of our patroness, **Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, the Little Flower of Lisieux**. Her life reminds us that holiness is not found in extraordinary deeds, but in living our ordinary daily lives with extraordinary love. Thérèse discovered her “little way,” the path of humility, simplicity, and trust in God. She teaches us that sanctity (holiness) is within everyone’s reach (even for the sinner like me) if we place love at the center of all we do.

Our **October Feast** is not simply a date on our parish calendar—it is an expression of our Catholic spirit of celebration. The Catechism reminds us that “*the liturgical year is the unfolding of the mystery of Christ*” (CCC 1168), and that “*in the Church’s liturgy the divine blessing is fully revealed and communicated*” (CCC 1082). Feasts, then, are not just social events; they are acts of faith. In celebration, heaven touches earth, and we remember with joy that God’s grace continues to unfold in our parish, our families, and our lives.

The Word of God this Sunday gives deeper meaning to our celebration. From the prophet **Habakkuk**, we hear the cry of the heart: “*How long, O Lord?*” In our struggles, God answers with the assurance that “*the just one, because of his faith, shall live.*” St. Thérèse embodied this trust, showing us that even in weakness and uncertainty, faith is our anchor. Celebration is our way of proclaiming that God is faithful, especially when life is difficult.

In **2 Timothy**, Paul exhorts us: “*Stir into flame the gift of God that is within you.*” Our October Feast is precisely such a moment of rekindling. In gathering to honor our patroness and rejoice as a parish, we allow the Holy Spirit to renew our zeal. Celebration in the Catholic tradition is not distraction—it is our mission. It strengthens us to live as disciples with courage, love, and perseverance.

In the Gospel of **Luke**, the apostles cry out: “*Increase our faith.*” Jesus assures them that even faith the size of a mustard seed can accomplish the impossible. This is the heart of St. Thérèse’s “little way”: doing small things with great love and trusting that God multiplies them beyond measure. Our feast is a reminder of that: God can use even our littleness to bring about great works of grace.

Ultimately, in celebrating St. Thérèse, we also celebrate each other—our parish, our history, our discipleship, our families, our friendships, our ministries, our community. Celebrations mirror the very life of the Trinity: love shared, love received, love poured out, love released. To celebrate is to proclaim who we are as a people of hope, joy, and communion.

Let us enter this October Feast with hearts renewed in faith. May St. Thérèse intercede for us, teaching us her little way of love, so that our parish may continue to be a living witness to God’s goodness in our world today.

Your parish priest,
Fr. JC Merino