

Fr. JC's Pastoral Letter

My dear Little Flower,

As we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, we may be tempted to think of Jesus as “leaving.” Yet the mystery of the Ascension is not about absence. It is about a Presence so deep, so powerful, and so divine that it can no longer be limited by time or place.

Jesus ascends, not to abandon the world, but to fill it with His living presence.

The Ascension is the promise of a fire of love that refuses to leave.

The disciples stood looking toward the heavens, perhaps with fear, sadness, and uncertainty in their hearts. But what Jesus leaves behind is not emptiness. He leaves them His Spirit, His mission, His peace, and the burning certainty that they are not alone. The same Lord who walked beside them would now dwell within them.

And this is the mystery that touches the very core of who we are as Christians. We are a people marked by a Love that remains. In every Eucharist, Christ remains. In every act of mercy, Christ remains. In every family carrying hidden burdens, Christ remains. In every prayer whispered in the quiet of the night, Christ remains. In every soul longing for hope, Christ remains.

The Ascension reminds us that heaven is not far away. Heaven has already reached toward us in Jesus Christ. Our humanity now rests in the heart of God. And because Christ has gone before us, we live with hope. We live knowing that love is stronger than fear, stronger than suffering, and even stronger than death itself.

As a parish family, may we never lose sight of this sacred fire. The world often grows cold with division, anxiety, loneliness, alienation, and noise. But the Risen and Ascended Lord continues to set hearts on fire through His Church, through the sacraments, through our families, and through simple acts of faithfulness and love.

May the Church of the Little Flower always be a place where that fire remains alive. A place of hope. A place of mercy. A place where people encounter the living Christ who never truly leaves His people.

And may we, like the first disciples, leave this feast not staring only into the sky, but walking forward with courage, carrying within us the fire of His presence.

Your parish priest,
Fr. JC Merino



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