

My dear Little Flower,

We had a splendid celebration of the Epiphany! As I pondered on the events that had taken place this past Christmas season at our little country parish here in Berkeley Heights, I realized that the celebration of the Lord's Nativity, up to the journey of the Magi to "see where there Child was", is a pilgrimage of all ages - both young and old - a pilgrimage of Family; while we celebrate the first Day of Christmas as a feast day of the GIFT (who is God-with-Us), the Epiphany celebrates our response to the GIFT: our *giving* in return. If we are sons and daughters of the GIVER, *we should not be afraid of being generous and giving as our Father in Heaven.*

I thank the Magi (all 9 of them!) who came and participated in all of our weekend Masses. Your "yes" to the invitation to "come and worship Him and bring Him gifts" brought the Word of God alive in our hearts and imagination! I would like to mention that meeting Esther, the Epiphany Camel, was a treat for me and the families that attended our 11:30 AM Sunday Mass. It was a beautiful day! I am glad to see people gathered to experience the words of the Holy Scriptures come alive right before our eyes! Talk about *real and true manifestations of the Lord's love and goodness to all!*

Next weekend is the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, and we will celebrate in our parish "WORD OF GOD" Sunday. I will make available to all of you the *Prayer of Enthronement of the Bible*, where you can place and bless your family bible in each of your homes.

Good things are happening here at Little Flower. Come! Take the journey with us: ENGAGE, ENCOUNTER, EXPERIENCE!

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino