



Dear Little Flower,

I woke up smiling and I don't even know why. Even when I felt muscle ache because of the seemingly endless moving in (carrying all my stuff, assembling furniture, etc.), I still manage to wake up smiling, light-hearted.

I am grateful for the welcome that you have extended me at the Sunday Masses on Independence Day weekend. I am happy to be here, and I am excited to journey with you. Thank you too for the number of emails that you have already sent me to welcome me to the parish. When my brother priests asked me how my first weekend went, I would reply: this church is beautiful, this parish is a gift.

The Return of VBS. After two years of not having Vacation Bible School for our children, we finally were able to gather again for 4 fun-filled days. We had 41 kids who were signed up; we are thankful for those who have given their time to volunteer and run the program with our *new* Religious Formation Coordinator, Genevieve Emanuel. We did singing, crafts, and lessons on the Bible every day. Our children had a blast with Fr. Matt leading the water-fun. Thanks to the Fire Chief and our Fire Department for participating in giving enjoyment to our kids on VBS.

It is saddening to hear about the mass shooting news in Chicago. As a parish, we continue to pray for a more peaceful and more free nation. We pray for the victims of the present mass shooting, which killed 6 people and injured a dozen.

Jesus narrates the Parable of the Good Samaritan. We continue - as disciples of Christ - to pray and build towards a town-community that fosters care for *our neighbor*, respect, mercy, and love for one another. We are a family; everyone, even those that might be less easy to love, are our neighbor to whom we are called to minister and to show the face of Jesus.

Your Parish Priest,  
Fr. JC Merino

Go and Make Disciples. Go and Make Leaders.

July 10, 2022  
Pastoral Letters to Little Flower  
2nd Pastoral Letter to Little Flower - "The New Guy in Your Neighborhood"

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