

Fr. JC's Pastoral Letter

My dear Little Flower Family,

The month of May has long been cherished in the life of the Church as a time set apart for Our Blessed Mother. As we continue our Easter celebration, and Creation - Spring - brings new life and beauty to the earth, so the Church turns her gaze to Mary, our Mother, the one through whom Life Himself came into the world. In a special way, we honor her through the tradition of May Crowning, a simple yet deeply meaningful act of love that has been handed on through generations of faithful hearts.

The crowning of Mary reminds us of who she truly is. She is the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven, and our spiritual mother. But her queenship is not one of power or distance. It is a queenship of humility, of quiet strength, of complete trust in God. When we place a crown upon her image, we are not giving her something she does not already possess. We are expressing what we believe, and who we love. We are saying with our hearts that she reigns in our lives because she leads us always to her Son.

To our children who have recently received their First Holy Communion, this moment is especially beautiful. They have just welcomed Jesus into your hearts in the Holy Eucharist. Mary, who first carried Jesus within her, understands what it means to receive Him with love and reverence. She teaches them today how to make room for Him, how to listen to Him, and how to stay close to Him. When they crown her, they are also asking her to guide them, to walk with them, and to help them always remain close to Jesus.

In a special way, we lift to prayer all our mothers, those who have given us life, those who nurture and guide, our grandmothers, and those who are preparing to welcome new life. Today, as we celebrate Mother's Day, we thank you for your dedication, your sacrifices, and your unconditional love for us, your children. Your love reflects something of the tenderness and strength of Mary herself.

For all of us as a parish, May Crowning is more than a tradition. It is an invitation. It calls us to renew our devotion, to deepen our trust, and to allow Mary to gently lead us on the path of faith. In a world that can often feel uncertain or divided, she remains a steady and tender presence, pointing us again and again to her Son.

As we gather to honor her, may our prayer be simple and sincere. *Mary, our Mother, be close to us. Teach us to love your Son more deeply. Help our parish to be a home where faith is lived, where hearts are open, where the voice of God is heard and felt, and where Christ is truly at the center.*

I remain,
your parish priest,
Fr. JC Merino



ENGAGE

ENCOUNTER

EXPERIENCE

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