

My Dear Co-Pilgrims on the Eucharistic Journey,

Today, the theme of our pilgrimage is "Into Gethsemane".

In our journey today, our eyes are to be opened to the effects of sin and the healing that Our Lord wants to give us. On the personal level, there will be opportunities for the healing through an encounter with the Lord in the Sacraments of Healing. On the other hand, as a pilgrim people, we recognize the areas where we've failed as a Church and the repentance and healing needed to unify the Body of Christ.

As we are purified and restored, our hearts will burn with renewed zeal.

"From the Grave to Grace"

Suffering is an inescapable part of life. Whether it is physical pain, emotional anguish, or spiritual turmoil, suffering touches us all. But even in the darkest of times, we can find hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus' resurrection is a powerful reminder that death is not the end. It is a promise that we too will one day be raised from the grave and given new life. This hope gives us strength to endure suffering and to keep going even when things are tough.

The resurrection of Jesus also reminds us that we are created for more than this world. We are destined for a life of grace and glory with God. This knowledge should give us comfort and peace in the midst of suffering.

We are invited to "come out of the grave" and into a life of grace. This means turning away from sin and turning towards God. It means accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. When we do this, we are given new life and a new hope.

No matter what we are going through, we can find hope and strength in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has overcome death and the grave, and he offers us the same victory. So let

us not give up hope, but let us press on towards the prize of eternal life.

Healing and Transformation; Vocation as a journey towards sanctification and healing

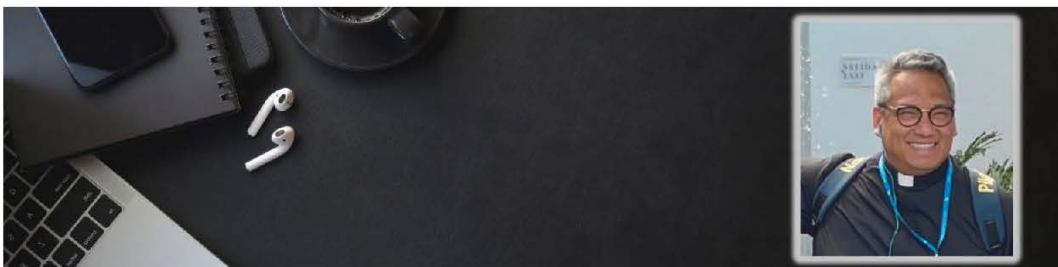
Healing and transformation are often accompanied by challenges. While all desire to be healed, few want to undergo the process of healing.

In our journey, we are all called to holiness - union with God. The universal call to holiness is a vocation shared by all Christians. This vocation can be expressed through different states of life, such as marriage or religious life. However, our vocation can also involve challenges, such as the "void" and "need" that we may encounter along the journey.

These challenges can help us to grow and deepen our relationship with God. While discernment plays an important role in our journey towards healing, the parish life (our ministries, engagement, and communion) reveal so much of who we are as a person and as a part of the Body of Christ. The parish life, which can involve a variety of experiences, positive and negative (so I myself am learning), serves as a teacher and a mirror - allowing us to learn and grow in the journey of faith.

Damon Owen offers the metaphor of "breathing" to illustrate the need for both prayer and adoration (inhalation) and service and mission (exhalation) in our spiritual lives.

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino



An encounter with seminarians. Cole (right) is a seminarian from Austin, Texas, who approached me having seen the sticker of my backpack that says: "YOUNG LIFE". Cole said that it was because of (Catholic) Young Life that he went back to faith - and now aspiring to serve the Lord as a Catholic priest. Cole asks for prayers for himself and his brother seminarians.

Let us continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



Photo Gallery - Day 3

