

**PASTORAL LETTER:
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
~ August 17, 2025 ~**

My dear Little Flower,

As we enter this Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Scriptures speak to us with striking clarity and boldness. Jesus says in Luke's Gospel, *"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!"* These are not easy words to hear, but they are a necessary reminder that our faith is not meant to remain lukewarm. It is meant to burn—with love, with truth, with conviction.

In many ways, this summer has been a season of being kindled by that fire. I have seen it: in your commitment to prayer, your openness to God's voice in discernment, and the hunger for deeper formation in the faith. Like the prophet Jeremiah, who found himself in a pit for speaking God's truth, we are learning that discipleship sometimes costs us comfort - but it always brings us closer to Christ.

The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us today to *"persevere in running the race that lies before us, while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus."* That's what this season has been: a race of the heart - a journey inward and upward. Through summer retreats, pilgrimages, faith-sharing groups, and quiet personal reflection, we've been stripped of what is heavy and re-centered on what truly matters.

Even as the summer begins to wind down, let us not forget the grace we've received. Let us remember that every season is an invitation to go deeper. And as we move forward, may we do so not in fear of division or difficulty, but with hearts ablaze with the fire of Christ - who came not to bring peace at any price, but a peace rooted in truth and love.

May the remainder of your summer be restful, joyful, and filled with the quiet movements of the Holy Spirit. Take time to be with your loved ones. Make space for silence. Be attentive to the voice of God whispering in the breeze.

Your parish priest,
Fr. JC Merino