

PASTORAL LETTER:
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
~ September 21 , 2025 ~

My dear Little Flower,

As we continue our parish journey through the theme of Catholic Social Teaching this September, the Scriptures this Sunday speak with a clear and urgent voice: faith is never separate from justice. How we treat the poor, how we handle wealth, and how we live in integrity before God are central to discipleship.

Through the prophet Amos, the Lord cries out against those who exploit the vulnerable: *“Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land!”* (Amos 8:4). This is not only a warning from long ago—it is a reminder for us today. Our choices as individuals, as families, and as a community either uplift or diminish the dignity of others. Catholic Social Teaching begins here: every person is a child of God, and to exploit or neglect a person is to wound the Body of Christ.

Psalms 113, however, sings of hope. It proclaims a God who *“raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor; to seat them with princes.”* This is the God we worship—a God of justice and mercy, who sides with the vulnerable. Our prayer and our actions must reflect this same compassion.

St. Paul, in his letter to Timothy, urges us to pray for all people, especially for leaders and those in authority, that they may govern

in peace and justice. Our work for social justice must be rooted in prayer—because prayer shapes our hearts, prayer keeps us humble, and prayer aligns our efforts with God’s will.

Finally, in the Gospel, Jesus teaches that we cannot serve both God and mammon. Wealth and material possessions are not evil in themselves - not at all! But when they become idols, they blind us to the needs of others and close our hearts to God. The dishonest steward in Luke’s parable reminds us that we are stewards, not owners, of all we have. Nothing we have that we have not first received. Everything is a gift, entrusted to us to serve others and the common good.

As families of Little Flower, I invite you this week to reflect and act:

- How do we manage our time, talents, and resources in ways that uplift others, especially the poor and vulnerable?
- How can we teach our children to value people over possessions, and generosity over greed?
- How can we as a parish family model stewardship — using what we have not for ourselves alone, but for the good of all?

The heart of Catholic Social Teaching calls us to integrity, generosity, and solidarity. May the Word this Sunday inspire us to live as faithful stewards of God’s gifts, to care for the poor, and to be witnesses of Christ’s justice and love.

Your parish priest,
Fr. JC Merino