

**PASTORAL LETTER:
THIRTIETH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

~ October 26, 2025 ~

**“October Feast: A Celebration of Oneness
and Connectedness”**

My dear Little Flower,

We arrived at the final week of our **October Feast**; and we are invited to reflect on the deep truth that celebration is always about more than food, music, or gatherings. In its essence, every Catholic feast is a proclamation of **oneness and connectedness**. We are not separate individuals pursuing holiness on our own; we are members of one Body, rooted in Christ, held in the communion of saints, and bound together in God’s love.

Our Catholic tradition reminds us that *“the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the font from which all her power flows”* (CCC 1074). When we celebrate, we are drawn into the mystery of unity: heaven and earth joined, past and present connected, God and humanity reconciled. To celebrate as a parish is to taste this reality—it is to remember that no one stands alone before God, but that we are made whole in relationship with one another.

This Sunday’s Scriptures open this mystery to us. In **Sirach**, we hear that God shows no partiality but listens to the prayer of the lowly. Oneness in God is not built on power, status, or pride, but on humility and shared dependence on His mercy. When we celebrate our parish feast, we proclaim that we belong together—not because we are perfect, but because God loves us equally, tenderly, and without favoritism.

The **Psalmist** sings: *“The Lord hears the cry of the poor.”* Connectedness in the Christian sense begins in solidarity with those who suffer. To celebrate joyfully while also remembering the poor, the sick, and the lonely is

to live the heart of the Gospel: communion that embraces all.

In **2 Timothy**, St. Paul reflects on his own life as a race nearly finished, confident that the Lord stood by him and gave him strength. Paul knows he is not alone. His story is part of a larger story: the Church, the Body of Christ, connected across time and space. In this light, our parish history is not just “ours”—it is woven into the great tapestry of the universal Church. Celebration is remembering that we are joined to all who have run the race before us and to all who will come after us.

Finally, in **Luke**, Jesus contrasts the Pharisee and the tax collector. The Pharisee, closed in on himself, boasts of his isolation; the tax collector, aware of his need, opens himself to God’s mercy. Connectedness begins here—in humility, in recognizing our shared need for grace. St. Thérèse’s “little way” teaches us that we are most deeply united not by our achievements but by our trust in God’s love and mercy.

Dear friends, our **October Feast** is a celebration of this oneness and connectedness. We celebrate St. Thérèse, who discovered God in the smallest acts of love. We celebrate each other—our families, our friendships, our parish story—because each of us, each of stories, is a living part of Christ’s Body. And we celebrate the God who holds us together, reminding us that joy is fullest when it is shared. The Christian path is not about separation but about union. Our October Feast Month echoes this truth: that in Christ all divisions are overcome, and what remains is communion, belonging, and love. May this October Feast deepen our awareness of how profoundly we are connected—in Christ, in faith, and in joy—and may it renew in us the call to live as one family of God.

Your parish priest,
Fr. JC Merino