

My dear Little Flower,

We had a beautiful celebration of the Solemnity of our church's Dedication (February 13). After solemnly celebrating the daily Mass, we congregated at the gathering space and feasted on coffee and donuts! The dedication of our church building is a testament of our willingness to form our hearts in conformity to the heart of Jesus - because *our heart is the dwelling place of God and our body is a real Temple of the Holy Spirit.*

A very important topic was given by both Fr Matt and me last Sunday, where we spoke to you in the context of the homily about one of the alarming realities of our Church today: the phenomenon of the "nones". There is a growing number of people saying: *I am very spiritual, but I am not religious*. "Religion: NONE". This rising *distrust against organizational and institutional religion in our time* is very alarming. Many ask: why the Church? I can do good without the church, I do not hurt anybody, I live in peace - I don't need the Church. What can the Church offer our people today? - This is a question that keeps me up at night. Stay tuned as I pray about this and reflect and act on this important matter.

As we make our way into our Lenten Journey, which begins on Wednesday, we ask the Spirit of the Lord to renew His Church. To call more and more people to come back to him by building up small Christian disciple communities in our local parishes. And may our little parish be an instrument of the Lord in bringing back into communion those who have fallen away.

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino