

**PASTORAL LETTER:
TWENTY-EIGHT SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
~ October 12, 2025 ~
“October Feast: Love Released”**

My dear Little Flower,

As we continue to rejoice in our **October Feast**, we are reminded that true celebration is more than festivity or tradition. Celebration is, at its heart, **the act of love released**—love that overflows from gratitude for God’s saving work, and love that binds us together as His people. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that *“the celebration of the sacred liturgy is a meeting of God’s children with their Father, in Christ and the Holy Spirit”* (CCC 1153). Every celebration, whether in worship, milestones in daily life, community life, or in our parish life, is an expression of this love poured out and shared.

This Sunday’s readings speak powerfully to this truth. In **2 Kings**, Naaman is healed of his leprosy and, in gratitude, proclaims: *“Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.”* Healing led him to thanksgiving, and his thanksgiving became a celebration. Likewise, in our parish life, whenever we are touched by God’s grace—through forgiveness, healing, or renewal—our natural response is to release love in celebration.

The **Psalmist** invites us: *“Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done wondrous deeds.”* Celebration is not just about looking back at what God has done, but proclaiming His saving power in the present. It is our way of saying, “God’s love is alive here and now.”

In **2 Timothy**, Paul encourages us to remember Christ Jesus who was raised from the dead, the very source of our hope. Even in trials, Paul sees reason to rejoice because *“if we persevere, we*

shall also reign with Him.” Celebration is thus an act of faith: a declaration that love and life in Christ will always triumph.

The Gospel of **Luke** completes this picture with the story of the ten lepers. Only one, a Samaritan, returns to Jesus to give thanks. His gratitude becomes an act of love released—a celebration of God’s mercy. Jesus tells him: *“Your faith has saved you.”* True celebration springs from thanksgiving; it transforms healing into discipleship and blessing into mission. A grateful heart is a joyful heart.

In this light, our **October Feast** is more than a parish theme in the month of October. It is an outpouring of love and gratitude—for the life of our patroness - St Therese, for the history of our parish, and for the communion of love we share. The Catechism reminds us that *“Christian liturgy not only recalls the events that saved us but actualizes them and makes them present”* (CCC 1104). When we celebrate, we do not merely remember God’s love; we release it, make it visible, and share it with one another.

Let us then celebrate wholeheartedly, as St. Thérèse did in her “little way,” with trust, simplicity, and love. May our feasts, liturgies, and gatherings be true expressions of God’s love alive among us as a family of faith—love that heals, love that saves, love that sends us forth as witnesses to the world.

Your parish priest,
Fr. JC Merino