



# PASTORAL LETTER

**My dear Little Flower,**

**“Panata”. It is a Filipino word, when loosely translated, it means “promise”, or better yet “pledge”. In the Philippines, it is customary that church-goers - the faithful - make promises or pledges to God, especially during the time of the Advent Season. It is a belief that if we make a promise or a pledge to God with all of one’s heart, or maybe to do something good for another as a commitment to Him, God will grant whatever is one’s desire. A panata makes the Advent season meaningful.**

**Here in our parish, I have instituted the writing of our prayers on a piece of paper in the gathering space of our church; and I invite you to place them at the sanctuary where the empty manger is (by the Advent wreath). I challenge you to make a panata - a personal promise to God that would make you the best version of yourself this holiday season. It is our hope that our pledges to God might turn out to be an answer to the desire of our hearts - God’s own promise: His Baby Son, our Savior, on Christmas Day.**

**My dear families of Little Flower, I would also like to remind you about our Tree Lighting and Crafts and Cocoa this weekend (Saturday following the 5:30PM Mass). Looking forward to seeing all of you there.**

**Thank you for the members of our Missionary Team who have helped us with another successful BH Winter Walk. It was lovely to see all of our families this past weekend at our Family Masses. It is good that we keep our traditions around the Lord and our families; these are the things that our children would remember and come back “home” to when they grow up.**

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God! (Lk 3:4, 6).**

**Your parish priest,  
Fr JC Merino**

