

Fr. JC's Pastoral Letter

My dear Little Flower,

Summer continues, and with it comes quiet invitations. While many of us will travel to visit family, take vacations, or enjoy a slower pace, our parish continues its own pilgrimage of faith. Every Christian is a pilgrim, and the Holy Spirit is our guide.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that discipleship is not simply about believing in Him. It is about following Him. Every day presents opportunities to welcome Christ, to choose love, to serve others, and to grow in holiness through the ordinary moments of life.

The Holy Spirit is the invincible summer of the human heart. Even when life brings challenges, uncertainty, or change, God's Spirit continues to renew us from within. Through prayer, the Eucharist, Scripture, friendship, and service, the Lord keeps leading us forward.

As your pastor, I would like to offer a few guideposts for our summer journey together at Little Flower:

- Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (July 16) as we entrust our parish and families to the protection of Our Blessed Mother.
- Little Flower Café: Journey Through the Eucharistic Prayers, where we will explore the heart of the Mass and deepen our love for the Eucharist.
- Flat St. Thérèse Pilgrimage, inviting you to bring Flat St. Thérèse wherever your summer travels take you and share her journey with our parish family.
- Continued opportunities for prayer, adoration, fellowship, and service throughout the summer months.

As for the Archdiocesan Initiative "We Are His Witnesses", Cardinal Joseph Tobin's announcement has been out for a couple of weeks now. I invite you to read, reflect, and pray about it; and ask: "how is the Holy Spirit calling me to respond to the Cardinal's invitation?" This apostolic effort invites all of us to renew our commitment to missionary discipleship, evangelization, stewardship, and strengthening parish life for future generations. Here at Little Flower, we will continue listening, praying, and discerning how the Holy Spirit is calling us to be faithful witnesses of Christ in our community. As pilgrims on the journey, we do not always see the entire road ahead. We simply take the next faithful step. The Lord has guided our parish for nearly a century, and He will continue to guide us into the future.

May the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with joy, renew your faith, and make this a summer of grace for you and your family.

See you along the journey!

Your parish priest,

Fr. JC Merino

"The steadfast love of the Lord I will sing forever." (Psalm 89)



ENGAGE

ENCOUNTER

EXPERIENCE

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