

My dear Little Flower,

We began our Lenten journey this past (Ash) Wednesday by remembering our sinfulness, human limitations, and weakness; we all have made mistakes, we need reparation. The one who has broken us has no power to mend us... We recognized our mortality and God's saving and powerful love for us. Today, we journey through the First Sunday of Lent, and we bring to the Lord our powerlessness to save us from ourselves - for we are dust and unto dust we shall return.

During the Lent, we journey and turn to the Lord - while turning away from anything that estranges us to Him. It is a great opportunity for Fr Matt and I to be with the Families of our Religious Formation program at the very beginning of Lent. Because Lent is not to be traveled alone - Lent is a journey of a community of faith, away from whatever makes us slaves, towards the freedom of loving and serving one another and the Lord.

This past week we have celebrated, too, the life of Christ of Joan Ann Prachar (the mother of Fr. Andy Prachar). Our God is the God of life and not death; He is Communion, not separation, nor division. As the family of Little Flower continues to mourn for the loss of a beloved sister, we find hope and support from this loving community of faith.

Cardinal Tobin, in his pastoral letter Rejoice in the Lord, says in speaking about our Lenten pilgrim journey: "No one is saved alone. We journey together, respecting one another's differences, listening, and learning from each other's shared hopes and dreams, and consoling and encouraging our fellow travelers... We are all One in Christ. We share each other's sufferings and frustrations, and we rejoice in the joy and hope that lies ahead at the culmination of our Lenten journey".

Have a blessed Lent to you and your family.

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino