

**PASTORAL LETTER:
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
~ October 19, 2025 ~
“October Feast: A Celebration of
Oneness and Connectedness”**

My dear Little Flower,

Celebration is a holy act of *remembering*. To remember is not simply to look back, but to recognize God’s presence across time—past, present, and future. **Remembering is a sign of lively faith and Christian joy**, because it acknowledges that God has been faithful to us, is faithful now, and will remain faithful forever.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that the Church “*perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes*” (CCC 98). In our liturgical celebrations, we honor both tradition and history: the sacred story of salvation and the story of our own parish family. Every October, when we gather, we remember our beginnings, the families and priests who laid the foundations of this community, the sacrifices and faith that built our parish, and the countless prayers and acts of service offered over the years. Our remembering is not nostalgia—it is faith made alive, gratitude made visible, and joy shared in Christ.

In this year’s Feast, our remembering finds deeper resonance in the words of **Pope Leo XIII**, who in his *recent* apostolic exhortation *Dilecti Dei* (*He loved you*)¹ called the Church to rekindle her witness of love in the world. He reminded us that the heart of Christian life is not merely doctrine or structure, but the living pulse

of charity—the love that flows from the heart of Christ to all, especially the poor, the weak, and the forgotten. Celebration, then, becomes our active response to this divine love. We honor God best when our joy extends outward, when our faith becomes care, and when our gratitude bears fruit in mercy.

Our **October Feast** is therefore not an escape from the world’s need, but a reawakening to it. In celebrating, we become more aware of our interconnectedness—of how Christ’s love moves through us and among us, binding us to one another. To truly celebrate is to remember that the God we worship in beauty and joy is also the God we serve in the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the neglected.

Dear friends, our October Feast is thus a sacred remembering - a reawakening of our love for those who are suffering. It honors St. Thérèse and her “little way,” the faith and sacrifices of our parish founders, and the ongoing story of God’s love still unfolding in our midst. To remember is to rejoice. To celebrate is to proclaim that our history, tradition, and community are alive in Christ.

May this October Feast fill us with the joy of remembering and the courage to carry our tradition into the future, united as one family in faith, hope, and love.

Your parish priest,
Fr. JC Merino

¹ *Given in Rome, at Saint Peter’s, on 4 October, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, in the year 2025, the first of [his] Pontificate.*