



Pastoral Letter

My Dear Little Flower,

Last Thursday, at our Little Flower Cafe, Fr Michael Gaitley laid the foundation of our "Consoling the Heart of Jesus Retreat". The very foundation of our retreat - the disposition and the motivation by which we will find our spiritual fuel could be summed up into four words: Our desire for sanctity.

It is understandable that this could be for a lot of people (including myself) very overwhelming. Here's the thing: as disciples of Christ, Jesus is not asking us just to be "good" or "kind", he wants us to be "perfect" as our heavenly Father is perfect (Mt 5:48). This is the command of Jesus - it isn't a suggestion; I take this personally as a command from Him.

And how - according to St. Therese - can we achieve this perfection - to fulfill this "desire" for sanctity?

She says:

"Alas! I have always noticed that when I compare myself to the saints, there is between them and me the same difference that exists between a mountain whose summit is lost in the clouds and the obscure grain of sand trampled underfoot by passers-by. Instead of becoming discouraged, I said to myself: God cannot inspire unrealizable desires. I can then, in spite of my littleness, aspire to holiness. It is impossible for me to grow up, and so I must bear with myself such as I am with all my imperfections. But I want to seek out a means of going to heaven by a little way, a way that is very straight, very short, and totally new."

I wanted to find an elevator which would raise me to Jesus, because I am too small to climb the rough stairway of perfection. I searched... in the Scriptures for some sign of this elevator, the object of my desires, and I read these words coming from the mouth of Eternal Wisdom: 'Whoever is a LITTLE ONE, let him come to me.'... I felt I had found what I was looking for!" Here lies the foundation, here lies the hidden wisdom of God: Not of our own merits. But yes! We have to remain little and become this more and more in our journey. There we will find God - there we will be given the perfection we so desire!

Your pilgrim priest,

Fr. JC Merino