

My dear Little Flower,

I would like to thank the *Respect Life* Ministry for journeying with the whole parish community in learning more about God's gift and the Dignity of the Human Person. They have given us a lot of opportunities to celebrate life and to serve one another, from praying together a decade of the Holy Rosary at the beginning of Mass, to celebrating with us during our Parish Picnic to the 50th Anniversary celebration of Deacon Mike and Pam - to highlighting our treasures and seasoned parishioners (there are many of them still not mentioned), to helping out *Life Choices*, to learning about human suffering and an education to prepare for the "last things". I am proud of the Little Flower *Respect Life* Ministry - and they have been a source of LIFE for us indeed this month of October.

This month of November - when darkness seems to stay longer and longer each day, we will reflect on the light that comes from the Saints in order to see for ourselves our respective personal life as each reflecting Christ's light for others. In our pilgrimage as a family of faith, I suggest we focus on one of the *Spiritual Works of Mercy* this month - a catholic spirituality practice that is both powerful and life changing: *Praying for the dead*. Prayer connects us to each other. Praying is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. I have prayer groups that were organically formed as I began forming Small Christian Communities in my previous parish, and we are still connected through text, and we remind each other once in a while of our thoughts and prayers for them, and request prayers if we need it or someone we know needs it. Never underestimate the power of prayer.

I am looking forward to being with you at our "Little Flower Cafe" Sessions, to pray with you and to learn more about the Saints with you.

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino