

My dear Little Flower,

Happy Feast Day of St Therese, and may the Lord bless our month of October!

As we reflect on the many blessings in our parish community, and as we journey through the "Little Way" in celebration of our patroness St Therese of the Little Flower, I want to take a moment to express my deepest appreciation to all of you.

First, to the sponsors of our 8th Annual Little Flower Golf Outing and Silent Auction. Your generosity and support have made this event a wonderful success, enabling us to continue our mission of service, encounter and faith. Thank you for your dedication to our parish and for helping to strengthen the bonds of fellowship within our community.

Secondly, I extend my warmest congratulations to our young teens who have recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation! With paternal affection, I want to commend each of you for taking this important step in your faith journey. Through the Holy Spirit, you have been strengthened in your bond with Christ and His Church, and I pray constantly that you will always be open to the Spirit's guidance in your lives. I am very proud of your commitment to grow in faith, and to live out with courage God's love for all in today's world. Know that this is only the beginning of an exciting and lifelong faith adventure with the Lord. We, your parish family, stand beside you with prayers and support as you continue to shine your light in our community and beyond. Special thanks to Bishop Elias Lorenzo for officiating the Mass and Sacrament on this holy day at our parish.

Third, I would like to thank the team and those who have volunteered to make our Fall Fest happen (this weekend, after the 11:30am Mass). I invite all families in Berkeley Heights to join us as we will gather to celebrate St. Thérèse's remarkable life and the beauty of her "little way" of love and humility. Our Fall Fest is an afternoon celebrating family, fellowship, and joy, and I encourage everyone to attend.

Please join us in giving thanks for all the blessings God has bestowed upon us as a parish, and let us continue to walk in His grace, inspired by the gentle example of St. Thérèse.

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino