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Yes! We are among Champions!



...But sometimes, “Winning” Doesn’t Look Like One – A Journey from Ashes to Fire

My dear Little Flower,

In God’s plan, what seems like loss is often the beginning of something greater.

Look at the Cross. By human standards, Jesus’ crucifixion appeared to be a failure—his enemies had won, his followers had scattered, and his body lay in a tomb. Yet, in this moment of apparent defeat, the greatest victory was unfolding. Sin and death were being conquered, and love was proving stronger than the grave.

Our own Lenten journey mirrors this paradox. Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving might feel like losing—losing comfort, losing time, losing things we enjoy. But in these sacrifices, something deeper is won: a heart more attuned to God, a spirit more open to grace, and a life set on fire by the Holy Spirit.

Lent highlights this truth: the way to glory - or “winning” - is through sacrifice. Take the story of the Transfiguration of the Lord for instance: the Transfiguration was not meant to be a permanent state but a preparation for suffering. Jesus revealed His glory not to bypass the Cross, but to strengthen His disciples for it. He wanted them to understand that suffering would not be the end of His story. The way to Easter glory would pass through Good Friday’s agony.

This is the great paradox of our faith: the path to true glory is through suffering. Lent reminds us that we, too, must descend from the mountaintop. We must walk the way of the Cross—through sacrifices, trials, and self-denial. But we do so with hope, because we know that suffering is not the end. The Transfiguration assures us that beyond the Cross, there is Resurrection.

So, if your Lenten sacrifices feel like losing, take heart. Sometimes glory - “winning” - doesn’t look like one—at least not at first. But from ashes, God brings fire. From loss, He brings new life. Stay faithful to the journey and let Him transform your heart along the way.

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino