

Greetings of peace and love to all parish family of St. Therese of Lisieux and friends,

I was born in the Philippines and my parents moved to Malaysia when I was 2 years old and lived in Malaysia for 30 plus years. I had ninth siblings, six boys and three girls. I did my formation in the Seminary in Malaysia for ninth years than continue in Philippines. I was ordained to the priesthood in November 11, 2001 by the late Bishop Jesus Varela. After three years as a priest, I was asked by bishop to journey and do my ministry in the US in Richmond Diocese. I arrived in VA in April 4, 2004. My first assignment as parochial vicar at St. Bede, then the following year July 3 as pastor of St. Pius X, Norfolk. After six-year, I was transferred to St. Nicholas, Virginia Beach (2011-2026).

July 3rd, 2026, I officially, joyfully and excited to join our Parish family of St. Therese of Lisieux. I am deeply humbled and blessed to begin my service and ministry as your new pastor. Arriving here is a true joy, and I cannot wait to meet each of you and become part of your lives and this vibrant community.

My heart is open to listening, learning and growing in faith alongside you. Thus, with your participation let's make our community of faith the "Synodal Church". Walking together, we grow together in faith, and we will support each other through our participation and proactive attendance in our parish activities and programs. We will continue to center our days around the Eucharist and vibrant prayer.

Little way: Inspired and lived by our Patron St. Therese of Lisieux, I believe great love is shown in small, everyday actions and daily acts of kindness in our season of life. I'm so blessed and grateful that I get the privilege to serve the Little Flower community. One of the things that really gives life is simply connecting with others and walking the journey of faith with you all in ordinary and extraordinary ways.

My office door is always open for chat, questions and prayer. As I continue my ministry, I'm looking forward to welcoming more people to be part of our parish family! In the spirit of St. Therese, who was grateful to bloom where she was planted, I'm grateful to follow God's will as best I can with the help and prayers of this amazing parish.

Please know that I am praying for you and your families. I ask for your prayers as well, that I may be a good shepherd and faithful servant among you. I hope we can grow closer to God together through simple acts of kindness, prayer, and service.

Journeying together in Christ,


Fr. Venancio R. Balarote "Jun" Pastor