



## ST ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

August 30, 2026

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

Dear Parish Family

This Sunday, Jesus gives His disciples a message that is both powerful and challenging: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

Last Sunday, Peter professed his faith in Jesus as the Messiah. Today, Jesus begins to explain what that means. The Messiah will not conquer through power or worldly success, but through the Cross. And those who follow Him are invited to walk the same path.

The Cross is not something we deliberately seek, nor does it mean that suffering is good in itself. Rather, it reminds us that love often has a cost. To follow Jesus means being willing to give ourselves for others, to forgive when it is difficult, to serve when we would rather be served, to remain faithful when it is easier to walk away, and to choose God's will even when it demands sacrifice.

Saint Paul tells us: "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." The Christian life is a constant invitation to allow God to transform the way we think, choose, and live.

Every one of us carries a cross. Sometimes it comes through illness, difficulties in our families, responsibilities, disappointments, or sacrifices we never expected. But the Christian does not carry the cross alone. Jesus carries it with us. And when our cross is united with His Cross, even our suffering can become an expression of love and a path to new life.

As a parish family, let us ask ourselves: What is Jesus asking me to surrender? Where is He asking me to be more faithful? Who needs my love, patience, forgiveness, or service?

May we never be afraid of the Cross. Let us remember that the Cross is not the end of the story. Resurrection is.

May the Lord give us the courage to take up our crosses each day, follow Him faithfully, and discover the joy that comes from giving ourselves in love.

May God bless you and your families,

Fr. Rolando