



A message from Fr. Matthias

May 14, 2023

Gratitude and Farewell

Friends in Christ,

I do not have the courage to say goodbye, but I must express my deep gratitude to all of you for the kindness, love, and generosity I have received in the short time I have lived among you.

No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feelings of sadness at this parting. The blessings I have received at St. Joseph Church and the kindness of all of you, I owe everything. To the little children - you have always reminded me that innocence and purity are qualities of holiness. To the youth, your energy and passion have nurtured my own enthusiasm. To the adults, your kindness and generosity have nurtured my strength of spirit. To the seniors, your wisdom and serenity have always reminded me to take the counsel of years, gracefully surrendering life to God's will. You have all been a gift to me. I owe my gratitude to Msgr. Gerry Reinersman, Deacon Steve Bennett, the Staff, and the Teachers. I have enjoyed serving with you all. Thank you for your warmth, kindness, and hospitality.

Whenever moments like this come, I often think about the things I have left undone or the things I could have done. But I know it is the Lord's work; we can only do so much and leave the rest to Him. As St. Paul said, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God caused the growth (1 Cor. 3:6). After all, [as Shakespeare put it] "All the world's a stage; And all the men and women merely players: They have their exits and entrances...." In all things, God's work continues.

I now leave, not knowing when or whether I may return; with the task before me, I must trust the Good Lord Who led me to you and now has opened new doors and bridges to cross. I must accept His will. Without trusting my unknown future to Jesus, I cannot succeed. Trusting in Him, Who always goes before me and remains with me, and be everywhere I go, I have to hope that all will yet be well. To His care, I commend all of you, as I hope that in your prayers, you will also remember me. I bid you all an affectionate farewell. Please pray for me as I make this transition, pray for my family, and particularly my mother. Know that I love and will always remember you.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Fr. Matthias Wamala