

My Dear Parish Family at Ss. Cyril & Methodius!

There has not been one day that I have not thought of you, prayed for you and fondly remembered the many things that we have shared. Each time I do so, I am filled with gratitude for the gift of YOU. I will repeat again, I love you and I entrust you to Our Lady of Fatima and her holy angel as we just entered the month of May.

As I write these lines, I am on the train from Wurzburg, Germany to Bratislava, Slovakia. While in Germany, I had the opportunity to visit with my sister, Veronika, and her husband, Bystrik, and their two children, Zuzana and Rafael. My sister, Maria, was also able to be present with her youngest daughter, Ludmila. The reason I visited Germany is because Zuzana was making her First Holy Communion this past Sunday, April 30. The celebration was beautiful and, as I was praying in a very special way for the newly confirmed at Ss. Cyril and Methodius, I was doing the same and prayed for those children who received Our Lord just a day before my niece. I heard from Fr. Libor and Fr. Elijah how well prepared all of the children were. I was there with my prayers and my love.

From the moment I learned about my return to Slovakia, I was surrounded by your love, prayers and, yes, tears as well. As it came as a surprise, we all had to learn how to respond in our own way to the news and also to realize that our prayers and faith are our place of strength and that Jesus is with each one of us as He promised: I am with you always.

From all my heart I want to thank each one of you for your words of gratitude, wisdom, and best wishes in my new assignment. I want to thank you for all the kind gifts that I will cherish which will allow me to remember you. Many of these will help me in my new assignment. In a special way, I want to thank you for the Holy Mass cards, rosaries, spiritual bouquets, pictures and notes from children, teens and adults. The images and messages on the internet are also a source of my joy. Each of you are, and will be, in my daily Holy Mass.

Many of you have asked me about my new assignment. I will share it with you once I have the details. My Archbishop in Bratislava allowed me to visit my sister in Germany but is also giving me few days to settle and then we will meet next week to discuss my next assignment.

I encourage you to pray for your priests who are serving you now, for Msgr. Ron Browne, the temporary administrator, for Fr. Libor, Fr. Elijah and Fr. Paul and all others who are helping out before we officially know who the new pastor of Ss. Cyril and Methodius is. You are in blessed priestly hands who bring Jesus to you each day in many ways.

During these recent days, a 3:00PM text message spoke to me in a particular way and it may inspire you:

"Those who leave everything in God's hands, will eventually see God's hands in everything."

I am sending you my blessings so each of you will see God's hand in everything.

Fr. Ben