

A Message of Gratitude for the 18 Years of Support...

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8)

This simple yet powerful response of the prophet Isaiah has echoed through the centuries and today, I hear it again in each one of you. During this Volunteer Appreciation Week, we celebrate not only what you do, but who you are: men and women who have heard the voice of the Lord and responded with courage, generosity, and love.

Volunteerism does not begin with a schedule, a program, or a sign-up sheet. It begins with a spark, a quiet movement of grace within the heart. It is that sacred moment when something within you says, "I can help. I will go. Lord, send me." And in that moment, something extraordinary happens: your life becomes a channel of God's love.

I want to thank you - not in a simple or passing way, but deeply, sincerely, and wholeheartedly. Thank you for saying yes, and supporting my priestly ministry in the past 18 years. Thank you for embracing not only the needs of the parish but also its vision: "Holy Family is where we encounter, share, and follow Jesus."

You have not only supported this vision; you have lived it. You have made it visible. You have made it real. When you greet someone at the door with a warm smile, you create a space where Christ can be encountered. When you prepare the altar, proclaim the Word, or serve the Eucharist, you help others to follow Him more closely. When you organize, clean, teach, cook, sing, guide, or simply show up faithfully - you are sharing Jesus in ways that words alone never could.

You have taken our mission "Love God, love others, and make disciples" and translated it into action. You have shown that loving God is not confined to prayer alone, but expressed through service. You have shown that loving others is not an idea, but a daily commitment. You have shown that making disciples begins with witness, with a life that reflects the Gospel.

And because of you, something beautiful has been happening in our parish. We are no longer simply maintaining structures, we are building a living, vibrant community. We are no longer just gathering, we are welcoming. We are no longer simply attending, we are belonging. We are no longer just preserving faith; we are igniting it.

You have helped change the culture of our parish. This transformation did not happen overnight. It came through countless unseen acts of love, moments when you chose generosity over comfort, patience over frustration, service over self. It came through your faithfulness, especially in times when it was not easy.

You have made our parish a place where people feel seen, known, and loved. A place where newcomers become family. A place where faith is not only taught, but experienced. A place where the Gospel is not only proclaimed - but lived.

And this is the heart of it all: you are not simply volunteers. You are missionaries. You are co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord. You are witnesses to the living Christ. The world today is often marked by indifference, division, and loneliness. Many people are searching, sometimes silently, for meaning, for hope, for belonging. And in that reality, your "yes" becomes a light. Every act of service, no matter how small, becomes a spark that ignites something greater. A child who feels welcomed at church may discover a lifelong relationship with Christ. A family who feels supported may rediscover hope. A stranger who is greeted with kindness may encounter God for the first time in a long time. You may never fully see the impact of what you do, but God does. And He uses it in ways far beyond what we can imagine.

Dear volunteers, your generosity has also been a powerful witness during this important time in our parish life. As we have worked together in the past 18 years to build, renew, and expand—not only our physical spaces but also our spiritual home, you have stood at the heart of it all. You have helped create not just buildings, but places of encounter. Not just programs, but pathways to discipleship. Not just events, but moments of grace. You have shown what it means to be a Church that is alive - a Church on mission.

And so today, I want to say again: thank you. Thank you for your time, your energy, your sacrifices. Thank you for your creativity and your dedication. Thank you for your faith. Thank you for believing in the mission of this parish. Thank you for loving this community. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ.

But I also want to encourage you: do not lose the fire. The spark that began your journey of service must continue to grow. Like Isaiah, we are called not just once, but again and again, to renew our "yes" to God.

There will be moments of tiredness. Moments when your efforts go unnoticed. Moments when challenges arise. In those times, return to the source: the Lord Himself. Remember why you began. Remember the voice that called you. Remember the joy of saying, "Here am I." Because God is not finished. He continues to call. He continues to send. He continues to work through you.

And through your continued "yes," our parish will keep growing, not just in numbers, but in depth, in faith, in love. My prayer for you is this: that you may always feel supported, appreciated, and deeply valued. That you may know that your service matters, not only to this parish, but to the Kingdom of God. May you find joy in your giving. May you find strength in your faith. May you find Christ in those you serve. And may our parish continue to be a place where hearts are ignited, where people hear the call of God and respond with courage: "Here am I, Lord. Send me."

**With deep gratitude and blessings,
Fr. László Nagy, Pastor**