

May 23, 2026

No Greater Reward!

As I prepare to depart from this parish community, many people have asked me what I am most grateful for after these years among you. Without hesitation, I can say this: I am most grateful not for buildings completed, programs launched, or milestones achieved, but for the lives touched by the grace of God and the privilege of witnessing hearts return to Him.

In these last few weeks especially, many parishioners have shared words that have deeply moved me. Some have told me, "Father, you were the reason I came back to the Church." Others have said they returned to Confession after many years, began praying again, came back to Sunday Mass, or found faith after a long season of distance, hurt, or confusion. Some have shared that they rediscovered hope when life felt heavy, that they found purpose again, or that they encountered the love of God in a new and personal way.

I receive these words with humility. No priest can claim credit for the work of grace. It is always the Lord who seeks, heals, calls, and restores. Yet to know that God allowed me to be an instrument in that sacred work fills my heart with gratitude beyond words.

There is no greater appreciation a priest can receive than to hear that someone came closer to Christ, that a marriage was strengthened, that a family returned to prayer, that a young person chose faith over emptiness, that someone burdened by grief found peace again, or that a soul who felt lost discovered they were loved by God. These are the treasures I carry with me.

I think of those who came back to Mass after decades away, those who entered RCIA searching for truth, those who found courage to forgive, those who returned to the sacraments after painful years, those who discovered community and friendship in the parish, and those who learned again that the Church is not a place of judgment but a home of mercy. To have shared even a small part in these stories is one of the greatest blessings of my priesthood.

Your gratitude, trust, and love have strengthened me more than you know. Your stories give me confidence and courage to continue giving my heart, my time, and my life to the Lord in the mission of evangelization. They remind me that every homily prepared, every confession heard, every hospital visit made, every meeting attended, every prayer offered, every conversation after Mass, and every hidden sacrifice matters when it is done for Christ and His people.

If I have helped some of you find meaning, direction, hope, or a deeper relationship with God, then I leave with a full heart. A priest could ask for no greater reward.

Please know that while I may be leaving physically, I carry you with me spiritually. I will remember your families, your intentions, your struggles, and your hopes in my daily prayers. I ask you also to pray for me, that I may continue to serve faithfully wherever the Lord sends me next.

Thank you for allowing me to walk with you, to celebrate your joys, to support you in sorrow, and to witness the beautiful ways God is alive in this parish.

With deep gratitude and affection,
Fr. László