


ST. MATTHEW



CATHOLIC CHURCH

Through Christ, with Him, in Him...

June 4, 2018

Dear brothers and sisters of St. Matthew,

Two weeks ago, the Superiors of our U.S. Christ the Priest Province met with our leadership team to discuss and discern areas concerning vocation ministry, formation, and personnel reassignments. Responding faithfully to God in serving our communities in the west coast, we experienced the path of God in dialogue and common vision. You might recall that when we celebrated Pentecost a few weeks ago we were prompted by Christ's words: "Peace be with you...as the Father has sent me, so I send you..." At our meeting, we engaged in a discernment process that called for an openness to docility, obedience, and courageous missionary activity.

The Missionaries of the Holy Spirit will open a community in San Antonio and I have been entrusted with the blessing and awesome responsibility of serving St. Vincent de Paul Parish as pastor in the Archdiocese of San Antonio beginning July 1st. While this announcement comes as a surprise to many (as well as myself), be assured that the decision making process was done with the humble recognition of weaving unity amidst the diversity and according to the gifts each MSpS has. Our Provincial Superior encourages us and says that 'the call to ministry we have all heard and responded to expects us to take each discernment process and decision with a heart full of hope, keeping our eyes on our Lord Jesus.' As I write these words to you, I cannot help but remind myself of the fundamental truth of what it means to be a missionary and go where God sends me. Your faith has shaped my life as I have ministered diligently and lovingly to you. Times like this calls me to let go and let God shape the horizon before me. A deep sense of peace and gratitude fills my heart. I want to assure you that being a brother among you compels me to be a pastor for you and the people God calls me to serve.

A new chapter begins with this transition. Fr. Lucio Villalobos, will begin his ministry as Administrator of St. Matthew on July 1st. Please help me welcome him to our St. Matthew home as you welcomed me when I was a brother, a deacon, a priest ordained here, and pastor... an unmerited grace that has made deep impressions in my life and vocation. I am confident you will find in him a gifted leader called to serve the priestly people of God at St. Matthew.

Given the urgency of this transition, the days ahead will be preparing for this new assignment while keeping you in my heart and mind, making every moment count as an offering to God for you in prayer. I ask that you also keep the MSpS who are in transition in order to promptly obey the Holy Spirit and make Him known to you through compassion and solidarity.

In Christ,



Fr. Hugo, MSpS