

## **Thank You and Thank You to My dearest people of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Parish Scottsdale.**

It is with mixed feelings that I write this thank you note to each of you and every family of OLPH. This is my last weekend in this parish, a parish that welcomed me, loved me and cared for me. I find it difficult to say goodbye to you because of the amazing welcome and love I experienced among you. I say with a every amount of conviction that my ministry in OLPH has been a great blessing to me. I found deep fulfillment and joy in my ministry as a priest in this parish. To begin with, Our Pastor Fr Greg Schlarb has been a brother and friend to me. In addition to his friendship and care, I learnt a lot from him on matters of administration and most importantly on how to take good care of fellow brother priests. I give him special credit for that he is truly a mentor. My other brother priests who live with me in the Rectory, Fr. Mike, I call him the wise man, Fr. Greg and Fr. Simon enriched me with the gifts of their brotherhood. The parish and school staff have been awesome particularly as the team work and collaboration we shared provided me with great opportunity to learn how to work as a team and achieve greater goal in any project. The school children and their parents gave me reasons to thank God every morning when I saw them come into school with their beautiful school uniform and school bags.

To you my dearest parishioners of OLPH, my encounter with each one you brought something into my life that I cherish. Most importantly your faith and devotion to God and your generosity to support us and the parish has been amazing and need to be commended. I thank God for the gifts which you are and for the opportunity He gave me to serve you in this parish. I will remain ever grateful to God for your blessings in my life.

As I leave here to take up my new assignment, I have one request to make to you as individuals or groups. My town in Nigeria, by name Uvuru in Uzo Uwani Local Government Area, Enugu State is inhabited by more than 50,000 people but it has no good source of clean running water and has no single hospital. The only functioning water-well serving the whole town was constructed through the assistance of some friends in 2018. In fact, the whole Local Government has no single functioning hospital. Moreover, poor road network makes it extremely difficult for the people to travel to the city when they are sick. As a result of lack of clean water and hospital, many people from my town die prematurely. Any assistance to help me provide them with clean water and functioning hospital would be appreciated. Any gifts or any acts of appreciation one intends to give me can be channel towards this project.

Donations can be made to **SUNRISE FOR RURAL DWELLERS INC.** A registered 501c3 100% tax-deductible by American Tax law. Mailing Address **7137 E. Rancho Vista Drive, Suite B21 Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

Finally, I thank each and every one of you and pray that God continues to bless you and your families abundantly.

Fr Tony Okolo