



Dear St. Leo's Family and Friends,

As my internship comes to an end on May 30th, I wanted to extend my sincere thanks to you and to our partner parish, Our Lady of the Visitation. It was an exciting opportunity for me to join you in work, worship, and fellowship. What a blessing this has been to share our lives together, even for just a brief time.

The nine-month internship has proven to be an invaluable experience for me. You invited into your lives and shared your faith journey with me. I will forever be grateful.

So many opportunities have been given to me and, because of your kindness, I learned so much about what it will take for me to continue on the road to priesthood. You have taught me so much that is not written in our seminary books. I believe I will be a better priest for knowing you, Fr. Schutte and the staff at St. Leo. I am humbled by your courage and faith in God. I was honored to be welcomed into your homes, to share meals and stories with you. Most of all, I was blessed to worship with you and experience people of many different cultures coming together as real brothers and sisters in Christ. I am grateful that you welcomed my own African culture. It gave me such hope that the gift of community experienced in our parish can, one day, be experienced in the larger world.

I will be visiting my family in Kenya for the month of June. I look forward to sharing with them about my St. Leo family in the US. I'll return to the seminary in the fall but I will be sure to return for a visit. I promise to pray for you, asking our loving God to preserve you in unity and truth. Please pray for me on this journey to priesthood. We are all on that journey to carry on Jesus' mission of sharing Good News. You have shared that Good News with me and others during my internship year. I pray that God will bring us together again.

Ben Lotianga