

## Dean's Letter, 26 August 2018

Dear Cathedral family

Today we say goodbye to Carlos Respeito, a student at the College of the Transfiguration, who has been on placement with us during the course of this year. He comes to the end of this second placement "block" at the end of this month. He writes:

Charlie Brown once said, "goodbye always makes my throat hurt."

Dear Cathedral family, the above words express very well how I feel right now.

Friends, it was a great honour to serve in this Cathedral for the past two placement blocks, this very same Cathedral where Edmund Smyth, the first bishop of my diocese, was consecrated in 1893. I still remember the excitement and the anxiousness on my first time here, but, with the support of many of you, I felt welcomed and part of the family. I have had very good experiences and memories here; I have had the opportunity to meet and interact with people from all backgrounds. I am humbled by the wisdom and teaching I received from the Cathedral clergy especially from Dean Andrew, Sub Dean Mzi, and Rev. Claire, and staff Lou-Anne and Chantel, I will take them for life and for my ministry. Friends, in our brief interactions I learned a lot, not only about you, but also about myself, and I thank you for that.

Pastorally, I will always remember John from Brookshaw Old Age Home, whom I had an opportunity to pray for two days before he departed for his eternal rest, may his soul rest in peace and raise in glory.

I wish I could delay this moment, but unfortunately, I cannot; now is the time to say goodbye. There is a song in my context that says:

"Salani mwina ba makweru, hita thlela hi bonana, loku Hosi hi šilawa... salani, salani, salani..." which means "Stay blessed my beloved, we shall see each other God willing... stay blessed..."

Goodbye cathedral family...

"Goodbyes are not forever, are not the end; it simply means I'll miss you until we meet again..."  
– unknown

Carlos

Thank you, Carlos. It has been very good to have you here as part of the Cathedral community over these past months.

Next Sunday (2nd September) we shall begin another sermon series, The Season of Creation. Our care for the earth is not a luxury, but a matter of survival, human rights and human responsibilities, and passing on the world to our children and grandchildren. In the four weeks of the Season, we shall explore the themes of Stewardship of the Earth, Water, Waste, and Land. All of these are highly relevant at this time! Some of you may have seen an article in the Daily Dispatch, 21 August 2018, reminding readers of the isi-Xhosa oral memory in relation to the land on which the Cathedral is built: that the Cathedral was built on the kraal (buhlanti) of King Ndlambe. The writer of the article accuses the church of "being complicit in colonial crimes" and in effect is asking what we are going to do about it. Our diocese has given quite a lot of land back to local communities: at Bolotwa, and at Nxarhuni, for a start. More about this another time.

My love to you all

Andrew Hunter