

Dear Fr. Paul, Fr. Raphael and Parishioners of
Sacred Heart, Williams Lake,

Greetings to all of you and my prayers
that this letter find you well and holding
fast to the Lord!

It has now been over a month since
I made my Solemn Profession of vows so
it is high time that I write you a word
of thanksgiving. I suppose I can say
my experience of the past month has been
somewhat similar to that of a newly-wed
couple who go away on a honeymoon
and then after they come back begin to
settle down into a new life together.
Of course it's a bit different in the case
of a Religious whose marriage is with
the Lord but I certainly have had the
sense of enjoying the fruits of a life
totally consecrated to God as well as
that of adjusting to a new phase in
the monastic life.

But before I say any more about myself
I want to say first of all a heart-felt
thank you to you all for the prayers, support,
and friendship you have given me over
the years and especially as I made this
final step of commitment in the monastic
life. A special thank you to those of
you who came down for my Profession.
Even though I was not able to speak to

you at that time I was much honored by your presence there. I very much appreciated all the cards and letters I received from you. In particular the spiritual boquet and offering of masses are invaluable gifts. I truly think I can say that not many of the monks can boast of such a loving, supporting parish as I can of you! Thank you one and all.

I have so many things I would like to say to you but of course I could never say them all! So I will share with you just one little fruit of my own journey in the monastic life which I think will reflect the theme of thanksgiving and supporting eachother with our prayers. I want to speak a little bit about God's loving plan of salvation and eternal happiness.

In the world we are living in now and with all that we see going on it's hard to believe that God's plan is actually unfolding and that there will be a happy ending to the story. But we must not be too eager to grasp all the hidden meanings of what happens in this world. We must start small. We must begin by seeing the unfolding of God's loving plan in our own lives. This has been the case for me. Over the course of the years of my short life I have learned to see how God's hand has been guiding me, leading me

②

along the way. In small, gradual ways He reveals His will and slowly by His grace I have learned to listen and obey that will. And as the years have gone by, and by the smallest increments I have begun to draw closer to God, I learn that His will is only one thing: Love. It is only when we have learned to see God's divine plan at work in our own lives, His infinite love which pervades, underlies, and gives meaning to all the events of our lives, that we will begin to see that our lives are only a part of a much bigger story. And that story includes all people and all history and all creation. That story is the Divine Plan of God's infinite love, and to that story there is only a happy ending because God Himself is the First and the Last, He is the Beginning and the End!

And it is because we are all part of that same story that we are able to support one another with our prayers. It is in this way that we share a closer bond than we ever could even by seeing each other every week. And if we continue to trust in God's Plan and stand firm in Faith, Hope and Love then we can be sure that on the Last Day we will meet one another again in the Halls of Heaven where at last we will see God's entire Divine Plan unveiled and where we will know joy that has no end.

Until that day comes let us continue to support each other with our prayers and love as we journey on through this life, knowing that our hearts and voices are united in giving praise and thanks to God. "From Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever!" (Romans 11:33) Deo gratias!

May the Lord bless and keep you all.

In Christ,
your Brother Joshua Rosario OSB

Thanksgiving Day
October 11, 2021