

Fr. Brando's Farewell Message

Thank you for your warm wishes welcoming me back from my sabbatical.

A sabbatical by its name, is a chance to reflect on where one has come from and to be allowed the opportunity and freedom to look anew.

I have experienced that during my time away.

A door has opened for me, a calling has whispered in my heart and soul to have the honesty and courage within, to walk into the unknown, knowing answers will come.

I have been given this gift and while as scary as it is, I am ready.

My time at St Gabriel's, the greatest gift any Parish Priest could ever have had, has come to an end. Just to say this to you, breaks my heartthat is so full of gratitude for all that each of you have given me these many years.

What a privilege it has been to share the journey of faith with you. I count it among my deepest joys. Even in sad times, what a blessing it has been to support each other in these moments. Our lives have been interwoven in the fabric of faithful service to each other.

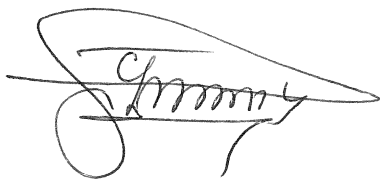
I will be in Toronto through Christmas. I will then be moving to the United States for this next phase of learning for 4-5 months and thereafter a potential apostolate to the Indigenous Peoples in the Northwest Territories.

This has been one of the most difficult moments of my life to share with you the need to follow a new path away from our beloved St Gabriel's community.

What keeps me going is knowing I have your support and prayers every step of the way.

Thank you for your compassion love and caring during the gift of my ministry with you these many years. You will be with me always. Pray for me as I continue to pray for you.

God Bless and my everlasting thanks to each and every one of you I have been so privileged to support and serve these many years. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Brando', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.