

On behalf of Liz Leach, Karen Chaney and Maureen Foster, I wish to thank all of you for welcoming us to Marambo and its outstations. We bring you greetings from the people of St. Munchin Church in Cameron and of St. Aloysius Church in Maysville, Missouri. We love you and we pray for you.

Prior to our visit, our parish gave you a grinding mill, and you gave us statues, vestments, and other gifts.

But this weekend you have given us much more. You opened your homes. You shared your food and drink. You wrote songs. You sang and danced with joy. You taught us your history. You have reminded us about the most important things in life: family, friends, compassion, laughter, generosity, love, hope and faith. You may think you are poorer than we are in possessions, but we think you are richer than we are in happiness. You have given peace and joy to our hearts, and for this we can never repay you.

We especially thank our hosts, Father Melchior Kambona and Sister Rita Tofflemire, who have served as organizers, translators and guides. Even more, they have inspired us by their faith in Christ and their readiness to serve others.

When we began our friendship, Sister Rita stood as the bridge between your land and ours. But now we understand that our lives were never divided. We have always been one, we are one, and we shall always be one because of him who is our redeemer and our hope, Jesus Christ.

After many years and across many kilometers, we finally come together to one table, where we all receive communion together, a gift more precious than any we have ever given, from the One who loves each of us even more than we love one another. Let us together join in this feast, grateful for what we receive from God who makes us one in the Body and Blood of Christ.