

From Goodbye to Hello

My Journey to Blessed Trinity



Good morning, my name is Grace Chinokoro and I am here to share how my life has been shaped and molded for the better over the years at Blessed Trinity. Five years ago in December, my family and I moved from Zambia to the United States. I had to say goodbye to a lot of friends and family and start a new life here with little to no contact with my old friends. On top of that, I had to get used to how things worked here due to the different vocabulary and this wasn't easy for my sisters and me. At the time, I thought moving countries was a waste of time and I never thought I would make friends, but I was brave enough to say goodbye to so many friends and family. After Christmas break, I began going to BT and I slowly started to enjoy it, but I still thought that it was a waste because I wouldn't make friends. Mr. O'Keefe had told my mom and my aunt that it would be a good idea to repeat third grade because of the different learning curriculum. Different teachers and my current classmates welcomed me. At this point in time I was excited to go to school everyday because of the different activities we did.

Before the pandemic, I made a few friends, but most of the time, I kept thinking I was going to lose my friends due to the long break we were on. We had gone back to school and there were rules we had to follow because of COVID. We still did fun activities, however I wasn't able to play any sports in fourth grade due to COVID, but in fifth grade, I had signed up to play volleyball in the fall and basketball in the winter. I had no idea on how to play these sports but the wonderful coaches I had had slowly taught me how to play. I memorized everything and was eager to play everyday. I continued to play these sports and I had so much fun because of the people I was surrounded with. Because of these sports, I had different opportunities. For example, this past basketball season was filled with tournaments, and at one of the tournaments, I had won an all-tournament trophy and I wouldn't have done it without the help of

my coaches and my teammates. I have always enjoyed going to school and attending school events because of the different opportunities. To me, school is a good community and I think it's a good community for others. Blessed Trinity offers different opportunities for students and parents and that's why I love this school. You are surrounded by caring staff and students here at BT. I am forever grateful that my mom had enrolled my sisters and me at Blessed Trinity because of the caring staff and peers I have here. I am forever grateful that we moved to the U.S. because life rewarded me with a new hello. A quote that comes to mind for me when I ponder this is: "If you're brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello," by Paulo Coelho. Every time I see or hear this quote, it reminds me that leaving the past is a good thing because the future can be rewarded with positive opportunities.

In conclusion, leaving behind long-time friends and very close family is not and will never be easy, but life is all about changes and finding new people. Saying goodbye is one of the hardest things a human being can do but you will be rewarded with things beyond imagination. Blessed Trinity has been my "new hello." You all in this room have contributed whether you know it or not to those "hellos" for so many of us. We are extremely grateful and thank you for your continuing generosity.