



It seems a long time since I sent out a blog installment of my last days in Tanzania. My intentions were good, but I was juggling too many things to have any time. The virus was pervasive here in ways that Tanzania had largely escaped; it took a while for me to adjust to social distancing and masks. There also was a sharp technology learning curve for me as we embraced a hybrid learning model at the Mount. A small number of students were totally remote, but most of the students were living in residence and alternated between in-class learning and on-line learning during the semester. I also needed to prepare for classes with a new text for Encountering Christ (Gerhard Lohfink's *Jesus of Nazareth: What He Wanted, Who He Was*) and catch up on doctors' appointments, mail, and settling in. I did not anticipate the difficulty of adjusting to North American culture after living in Tanzania for a whole year. Things just seemed to be moving so fast for me, especially as school began immediately after my two-week quarantine. Now that the semester has ended and Christmas has past, I thought I would finish up the blogs from my departure days in Tanzania.



My friends Kefa and Herry—star players on the local New Kings football team—baked a cake for me as I departed. What a wonderful surprise...both their thoughtfulness and their ability to actually bake a cake!



In the last blog I had mentioned that the Blessed Sacrament Sisters wanted to have a going away party for me. We had much fun, good food, hearty laughs, and even a few tears.



Sr. Sara Rosa, Sr. Lucia, Sr. Fatima, and yours truly!



One of my many gifts...a beautiful African shirt complete with giraffes. I don't know why but people say I should work more on my facial expressions.

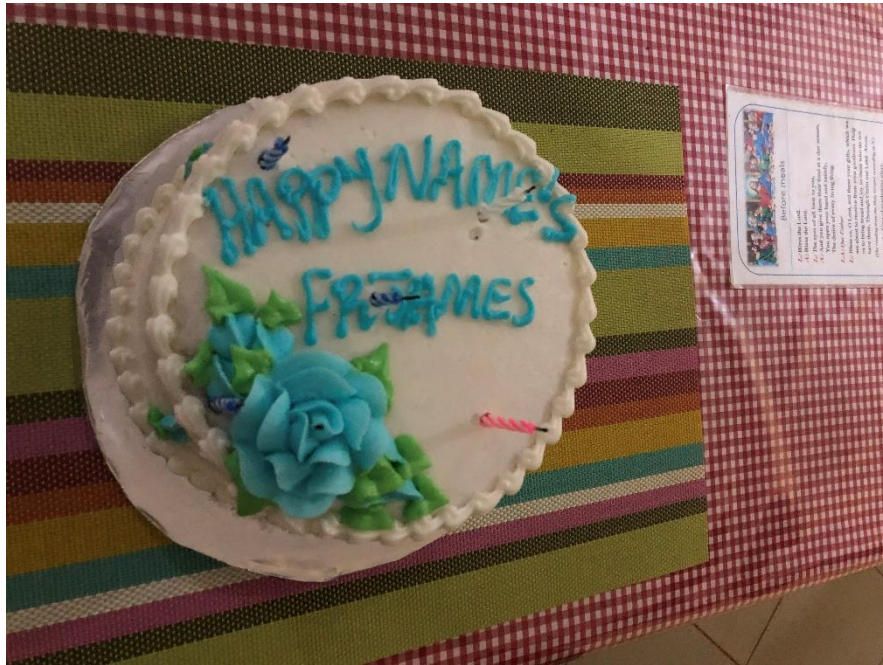




Fr. Wojciech and I sign the guest book and pose for some final photos.



There were still more celebrations because my name's day—St. James—falls on July 25th. With my original flight, I would already be back in North America, but I was still a week away from departing because of the virus.



You can never have enough cake...and we seemed to be able to eat it too!



People who know me well, know that my favorite food is ice cream! And what would cake be like without ice cream. By the way, I think ice cream covers the three major food groups of chocolate, vanilla and strawberry!



Yohana learned the finer details of ice cream scooping from the expert!



We all looked forward to celebrating birthdays and names' days





FR JAMES DONOHUE CR,
WE LOVE YOU GOD BLESS YOU.

We usually received a gift on our name's day. I wonder what is in the beautifully decorated box. We will see in Blog No. 48...coming soon!



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