



**ST. ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY  
EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME TO  
Fr. Deogratias Mbonyumugenzi (Fr. Deo)**

Dear Beloved Parishioners of St Elizabeth of the Trinity,  
I pray and hope that the Easter Blessings continue to fill your hearts with peace and your homes with love!

My name is Father Deogratias Mbonyumugenzi, and I go by Fr. Deo. I'm a diocesan priest from the Catholic Diocese of Kabgayi, Rwanda, East-Africa. I was born on September 23, 1982, in Rwanda to Laurence Kakweri and Zacharie Zikuliza, and I'm the youngest of 12 siblings. Both my parents died, and only 4 brothers and one sister are still alive. I grew up around church, serving as an altar boy since I was 9. I entered Minor Seminary at 12 years of age and graduated at 19. After 6 months of discernment about my vocation, I attended St Thomas Aquinas Philosophy Seminary in Kabgayi, and St Charles Borromeo Theology Seminary in Butare, Rwanda. I was ordained to the priesthood on August 1, 2009, and I served 8 years in my diocese of Kabgayi as an educator and bursar of Kabgayi Minor Seminary and chaplain of Catholic schools (from 2009-2013). From 2014-2017, I served as Assistant Bursar of the diocese and director of the St Andrew Pastoral Center.

I came to the United States in 2017 to pursue my Theological Studies. I graduated from the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in 2019 (MA in Systematic Theology) and started my PhD in Theology at Loyola University Chicago in the Fall 2019. I graduated from Loyola on May 6, 2025, and my PhD dissertation studied the relationship between Trinity, forgiveness, and Christian discipleship.

My pastoral ministry (experience) in the Archdiocese of Chicago includes serving as Parish Administrator at Saint Donatus Parish for 6 months, as associate pastor at St. Procopius / Providence of God (from July - December 2019), and as resident priest (2020 - 2023) in same parish. I served as a resident priest at Blessed Sacrament Parish (from July 2023 - November 2024), and Parish Administrator of the same Parish from December to May 31, 2025).

My hobbies include playing sports (basketball, volleyball, soccer, table tennis, bike riding, etc.), listening to classical music, meditation, reading, gardening, gastronomy, and cross-cultural encounters (communication). I fluently speak Kinyarwanda, French, English, Spanish, Italian and I have writing and speaking skills in Latin and German.

I am a happy person (priest), and I love to share the joy of the gospel with everyone around me. I am very thrilled to join your parish family, and I look forward to getting to know each of you as we journey together as missionary disciples.

