

Greetings,

It is hard to believe that it has been eight weeks since I first showed up on the doorstep of St. Patrick's. The time which I have spent here has indeed been blessing. I wish I could have gotten to know more of you, but eight weeks is not very long to meet so many people. What is tough about Summer assignments is that right after you start to get to know people, it's time to leave. Nonetheless, I am very thankful for having come here and for all that you have done for me, I hope to stay in touch. My encounters and interactions with many of you have been enriching and affirming of this vocation to the priesthood. I cannot tell you, after being here, how much more desirous I am of bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus. From daily Mass, Vacation Bible School, family dinners, Steubenville East, weekend Masses, to the food pantry, morning rosary, men's morning group, youth group, Mother's Retreat, I have had great and formative experiences. Thank you! Also, I was very moved by all who came out for the 'Going Away Lunch' that was held after the 10:30 Mass last week. A great turn out of great people and delicious food! And thank you to those who helped set up and clean. Your kind words written in the guestbook and the wonderfully generous cards were humbling. I hope to be able to come and visit when I am able; after all Brighton is not super far away.

From here I will be able to take some time to visit family in Indiana, then on August 27<sup>th</sup> I will be heading back to seminary to begin II theology (year four of six). But not before going to the *Quo Vadis* Days Camp up in Warner, at Northeast Catholic College from August 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>. It should be fun! Particularly Wednesday, because that is when the first annual Priests and Seminarians vs. Quo Vadis soccer game (or basketball if it's raining) takes place. Basically, all the seminarians and a couple of priests (Fr. Von included) will play a game of soccer (or basketball) against the campers. Ordinarily one might think that the younger kids, being more fit, will give us older ones a run for our money. However, I think we will come out victorious... just wait and see.

After the camp I will head to Indiana to visit my family. After that I head back to seminary August 28<sup>th</sup> for a retreat which will inaugurate a new Fall semester. God is good!

Well, I hope you have a blessed rest of your Summer. Please know of my prayers for you all and keep me as well as the other seminarians in your daily prayers. St. John's address is: 127 Lake Street Brighton MA 02135

In His love,

Seminarian Joe