



As my time here at St. Patrick's Parish comes to an end, I would like to thank all of you for welcoming me in and allowing me to share this summer experience with you. It was wonderful to get to know so many of you and see what a beautiful parish community you have here in Pelham.

I have had so many memorable experiences while I have been here: from baptisms to anointings, from conversations after Masses to being able to give a series of talks on the holy angels, it has been a great time! I have been impressed by how much people are willing to give of their time and talent in order to make this parish run. Of course, I can't forget to mention the incredible Vacation Bible School I got to help out with while I was here. It was great to see so many kids eager to learn about God!

One of the things that has really impressed me about this parish is the parish mission statement to Go, Make, Baptize, and Teach. In talking with so many of you it has been clear to me that you are striving to live this mission, often by seeking to convert your own family members who have fallen away from the faith. You really are living out the call to evangelize others and to help them to fall in love with God. I encourage all of you to keep living this mission in your daily lives by growing closer to God in prayer and letting His love fill you to the point that it overflows into everything you do.

I would also like to thank Fr. Von for his mentorship throughout the summer. He has been an excellent model to me of diocesan priesthood and has been more than willing to show me the ropes and explain to me the ins and outs of being a pastor. On more than one occasion he would call me down to his office as he was going through paperwork just to explain what he was doing and why it was important to make sure it was done properly. From explaining parish finances to making sure I knew exactly how to set up for Mass, he has never hesitated to share his knowledge with me.

Once again, I want to thank you all for this wonderful summer here. I will soon be returning to St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana to continue studying theology, so I ask that you continue to pray for me. And be assured that I will continue to pray for all of you and your families.

In Christ,

Eric Ouellette