

Goodbye message:

When you are a priest you must understand that this life includes being reassigned every few years to a new parish. On one hand it is an opportunity to move on and grow in your priesthood. To take what you have experienced and learn from it. What you did right, what you could have done differently – and apply these experiences at your next assignment and throughout your priesthood.

On the other hand, it can be difficult because you have to leave a life you have grown accustomed to. You won't be seeing every week the people you have developed friendships with, or the people you've worked with, or have the schedule you are used to.

Starting fresh at a parish can be exciting as well as a little intimidating. When I came to the parishes of Queen of Angels and St. Joseph I didn't know what to expect. But from the very first Mass I knew I would be welcomed into these parish families. So many of you greeted me with big smiles and warm wishes I felt instantly the spirit and love of the people of these parishes.

In these six years I have shared so many occasions with you. From the happiest and festive: baptisms, weddings, and anniversaries– including the silver jubilee of my ordination and also my incardination into the Archdiocese of Seattle - to the most difficult: sicknesses, economic struggles, funerals, and a pandemic that no one could have predicted. Despite that challenge the faithful of these parish communities kept the faith and continued to participate in the Mass, either by signing up and attending in person, or watching the live stream made available by the generosity of the Carradine family. It is so gratifying to see so many of you returning to the pews now that we are through the worst of it.

Through it all it was always so inspiring to see the level of faith in this community. The outpouring of love and support to each other in the good times and the challenging times. Even seeing people greeting each other after Mass each day is heartwarming.

I've had the good fortune to see children and adults alike go through the different stages of their faith journey. Preparing for and going through each sacrament brings new excitement and a deepening of faith. It is very special to get to be a part of it.

I am so happy that I got to experience the enthusiasm of the children participating in the Passion play and Christmas concerts in years past. It is a blessed experience that they will always be so grateful to have been a part of. I hope those events will soon return for the enjoyment of all.

The devotion of the volunteers in the various ministries is inspiring. It's been difficult, I know, for the many who have not been able to participate for over a year. The choir, Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, altar servers, ushers, and greeters. The Women of St. Joseph and Queen of Angels, the St. Martin Guild, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Knights of Columbus, the Legion of Mary, the Homebound Ministry volunteers, and the other devoted ministries that make people feel the love and caring of Jesus through their tireless and selfless efforts. Every day we're getting closer to a return to normalcy.

Thank you to Fr. Robb, Cathy, the staff and all of you for your support and welcoming me into your parish families. How blessed I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so difficult. With my transfer my ministry at the Parishes of Queen of Angels and St. Joseph may culminate but the memories journeying with you will never diminish. You are all a part of my growth as a priest and I will always be grateful for these gifts you have given to me.

Thank you and God bless you always.