

Dear Friends,

It has been my privilege and honor to serve you as your pastor for the last four years. I can remember the warm welcome and great support from so many of you as I began work in my first assignment as pastor. While it seems like four years can take forever, these four years have fairly flown past. I simply wanted to take an opportunity to say, "Thank you" to all of you for your kindness, your friendship, and your patience with me over these past years.

While every Catholic parish has similarities with every other Catholic parish each one is unique as well. I will always hold dear the memories made here at Sacred Heart of the great charity and compassion shown by you as a community. Your "above and beyond" support of Catholic Charities Spokane during the annual Christmas Collection, the constant and faithful support of Family Promise of the Palouse, and the outpouring of love and consideration for the residents at Pioneer Square during the holiday dinners will be warm memories for me of your thoughtfulness. Not only have you been generous to the Pullman community but you have been so supportive of your parish family as well. From the numerous dinners and meals delivered to families touched by illness to the sympathy demonstrated to families marked by the sadness of death through the ministry of music, prayer, and, preparing of the funeral luncheons you have certainly made these times much easier for the families. Your example of generosity has inspired me to try harder to be a more compassionate and empathetic priest and I will be forever grateful for that.

From the start of my tenure here the members of our parish staff have worked devotedly in service to Sacred Heart, often volunteering their time. Sacred Heart would not be able to function without their hard work and commitment. Thank you Theresa, Debbie, Mary, Sue, and Kent. A special thanks also to our deacon, Jim Evermann. Jim and Maureen befriended me as soon as I walked through the door and have been invaluable in my ministry as pastor.

Finally, as I leave Sacred Heart, I will always hold literally and deeply in my heart your great love and support for me last year during my heart surgery and recovery. Knowing that so many of you were praying for me during what was certainly the most difficult event of my life made the process of undergoing and recovering from it much easier to bear. The many cards, notes, and emails could only hasten my recovery and I am forever in your debt for your kindness. I could go on and on but space and practicality limit my ability to do so.

In short, thank you all for being good witnesses to the Gospel of Life. Though I will not be here I will never forget my time in Pullman and will pray for you always and ask that you pray for me.

With much love and deep gratitude,

Fr Jeff