

July 22, 2021

Dear Father Brent,

The entire St. Anselm Community offers sincere thanks for your pastoral care, help, leadership, thoughtfulness and compassion while serving as our Chaplain for the past nine months. You will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers wherever you go, whatever you do. We can never repay you for all that you provided in loving service to us during incredibly challenging times. You arrived for what was expected to be St. Anselm's last hurrah, which instead in no small part due to your tireless efforts, became a rebirth for our community and growing number of faith filled members. It's no coincidence that you have been part of the family at St. Anselm since your birth.

Just like many who visited us once and chose to become part of St. Anselm, you came for one day and remained for almost three hundred! No task was too small, nor any challenge too large for you. The list of pastoral care highlights during the trying times of COVID is incredible: safe outdoor Masses, socially distanced indoor Masses, faith formation's relaunch, virtual and in-person retreats, prayer services, small groups, and book groups are just some of those efforts. We mourned together the passing of too many longtime friends and welcomed many new wonderful people to our community.

St. Anselm did not just survive the challenges of COVID and closure, but today is stronger with more active members. Our numbers have grown as both new people were attracted to St. Anselm and past members returned to a vibrant and welcoming community. The number of volunteers swelled as people came forward to help in new and different ways. There is now an enthusiasm at St. Anselm that positions us well to grow our capacity as we continue the journey to welcome, love and serve Our Lord and others.

It is with much sadness that we say farewell, but not really goodbye. Words do not exist to express our gratitude for all you have done for St. Anselm and its people. We pray for your safety and well-being. Of course, our doors are always open to you, whether for a day or three hundred! We may part ways physically for now as you return to your Jesuit responsibilities, but your spirit remains a large part of the St. Anselm community of believers. Until we meet again, may the peace of Christ be with you. Thank you and may God bless you always!

Love,
Your faithful friends at St. Anselm