



St. Paul's Catholic Church

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TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE

There is a time for everything as we read in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. There is a time to say "Hello" and a time to say "Good Bye", a beginning and an ending. We do not like transitions, a moving on, a changing from what is familiar and comfortable, to something that is unknown. We need to depend on our faith-our trust and hope.

It is difficult to say "Good Bye." We experience it many times in our life. It is no different for me as I leave Saint Paul Parish and Japanese Martyrs Parish, as well as all the folks in the AFC. I have experienced thirteen wonderful years of faith-filled sharing with all of you. I have grown and learned much from you. It has been a good time in my life. I have truly enjoyed being in your midst and I leave all the better for it.

My future will be very different as I move away from parish life into Monastic Community life with approximately 100 Sisters. I will be working in our Art/Craft gift shop. Working in our small parishes has been an extremely good experience and blessing for me. I will be completing 34 blessed years as a Pastoral Administrator and I leave with many fond memories.

It has been a joy to work with all the leadership groups of the parishes. The Councils, Committees, DRE'S and Catechists, and all groups of the parishes who have been so dedicated. Keep up the good work. In the planning of our Elevator Project at St. Paul's, how could it have been done without the excellent work of the Building Committee? They worked tirelessly and with great cooperation. How could Leavenworth have a very successful 2-Day Celebration for the 150th without the wonderful work of the committees with its excellent leadership. I have been fortunate and privileged in working with all of you.

It is the Holy Spirit that has guided your Pastoral Leadership over the years. It is that same Spirit that will be helping with this transition. THANK YOU for your wonderful support and affirmation. You have helped me be a better person. I will miss you but will always have a special place in my heart for the people of St. Paul and Japanese Martyrs Parishes.

GOD BLESS!

Sister JoAnne Backes, OSB

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