

**In Thanksgiving to the Community
of Mary Immaculate Church
June 6, 2010**

I have never been one to believe that things happen in our lives merely by coincidence. Prior to the summer of 2006, I had neither been to nor heard much about Mary Immaculate Church in Farmers Branch, but I was informed by my vocation director that I would spend that summer in residence at Mary Immaculate. Of course, then I was unaware of how my original two-month assignment would grow into what has now been a four-year relationship with the Mary Immaculate community. I was blessed to have spent my pastoral year at the parish under the direction of Fr. Bradley, and Fr. Michael has been more than generous in both providing a roof over my head whenever I am in town and in letting me continue to serve the parish in whatever ways I am able.

My relationship with Mary Immaculate Church has been an incredible source of strength for me throughout the last four years of my seminary formation. You, the community of Mary Immaculate, have helped form me and have greatly encouraged me to grow in my vocation to the priesthood, and for that I offer my sincerest gratitude. Your prayers have sustained me and have helped me arrive at where I am today. I can clearly see God's hand in introducing me to the parish, and it is an incredible honor to be able to celebrate my Mass of Thanksgiving with the great community of Mary Immaculate Church. I will continue to keep you all in my prayers, and please pray for me as I begin my first parish assignment at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Plano. May God bless you all.

REVEREND JOHN MICHAEL SZATKOWSKI



Ordained a priest for the Diocese of Dallas

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