

Bishop Persico closing remarks
Fall 2018 Vicariate Meetings

I'd like to thank everyone, again, for being here this evening. Our presenters, our host parish, and all of you. I know this is an especially tough time for us to be thinking about welcoming and belonging. It's not as simple as, "Hi, come on in!"

I'm sure there are people in this room, even, who know what it's like to belong to a parish, yet still feel isolated.

The truth is, it's possible to belong to a parish for years without having any real or significant personal encounters with others.

And I'm sure you've heard people questioning how anyone could remain Catholic after the release of the Grand Jury Report. Many of us have been hurt by the fact that people we know and love were living double lives.

The bonds of belonging have been tested.

But your presence here tonight is a testament to the fact that you have formed a personal, life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ. So much so, that you want to share it with others.

There you have it. The very definition of evangelization.

I look forward to the many creative ways we are going to discover parishes are living out the four encounters that were presented tonight.

I pray you will remain safe as you travel home, and I offer you my blessing...