



# *Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish*

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[www.stmarymilford.org](http://www.stmarymilford.org)

Dear Parishioners,

It has been over a year since I arrived here Milford, and more than a year and half since I knew that I would be your next pastor. When I met with Bishop McManus in February of 2017, I immediately accepted my assignment before leaving his office. My reasons were threefold, first that I had been convinced in my prayer that the assignment I would be given would be more than the bishop's choice, it would be in truth, God's choice and plan for me and my priesthood. And the other two reasons were that it met the criteria I had figured, it was a multi-lingual parish and it was affiliated with a Catholic school, the former Milford Catholic Elementary School.

To the disappointment of many, and myself included, the school closed days before my arrival. It left a hole in my experience here and a prayer that someday a Catholic school would be established. A year after my meeting with Bishop McManus, I met with representatives from our diocesan Catholic School Department who knew of my disappointment and asked if I would consider trying to open a school in the Milford area. While I was eager, I was also cautious for I did not want to re-open the school that had closed months before. Also, I explained I would want to open a new school with a new identity and vision, one affiliated directly with our parish.

My vision for a new school for Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish is one that would draw from the distinct gifts and resources that our parish enjoys. Looking forward, I would hope to create a Catholic school for our community that would offer the ability for its students to learn not only the essentials of Science, Technology, English and Math, but that would be rooted in our Catholic faith and traditions. In addition, I would want our students to learn to pray, to read, and to converse in the living languages of our parish: English, Portuguese and Spanish. What a gift that we could graduate students who would have a weekly experience other than Sunday of the Mass, be able to pray the rosary in all three of these languages because they would know the prayers, celebrate the feasts of Portugal, Latin America as well as the United States, and take those skills to work in a variety of fields in our modern world.

There are three hurdles to surpass to realize this dream. First, is to find an appropriate and viable location to house an initial school for pre-school through Grade 4 for 120 students that could grow in five years to be pre-school to Grade 8 for 175 students. The second is to find the resources and funding to establish and solidify this school for several generations. The third is to prove to Bishop McManus and the Diocese of Worcester that there is interest and viability in this school not only in our parish but in our area. If you have children or grandchildren of school age and would consider enrolling them in a local Catholic school your input is critically needed now for us to pursue this dream. Please complete the survey on the reverse side of this letter and return it to our parish before September 23, 2018. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Rev. Peter Joyce  
Pastor