Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

Pastoral Council Meeting

April 8th 2018

The meeting was held at the new parish center at Saint Mary’s and called to order at 7:16 pm

Role call of council members:

Angie McMaster (co-chair)    Ray Wagner       Jessica Hagg (youth)
Cliff Mann (co-chair)         Chickie Rigazio    Paul Therrien
Father Brian Mahoney          Paul Sidari       Rachel Beechin (youth)
Laura Conte                   Scott Davidson     Julianna Magbonzi (absent)
Matthew Larson (youth)        Julie Seitter     Karen Drake
Matthew Pontbriant (youth)    Lori McDonald     Laura Zatta (absent)
Peter Lando                   Ross Drew         Mike Condor

1) The meeting began with an opening prayer led by Father Brian.

2) The group reviewed and approved the March meeting minutes.

3) The first item up for discussion was on the upcoming elections. Parish council positions are a minimum three year term each which runs from June through May. The parish council is currently configured to have 8 adults from each parish (preferably 4 males and 4 females) and 2 youth from each parish for a grand total of 20 positions. Father Brian will check with the parish office to determine who will be asked to step down from their current positions. It will probably be one male and one female from each parish. As far as the members of the parish council who represent the youth, any of them who are high school seniors will need to step down and be replaced. This does not mean that they cannot be nominated from the non-youth council positions. Nomination forms and ballot boxes should be available in the parishes in the next couple of weeks.

4) Facilities issues, updates and questions. Father Brian gave the following updates on upcoming projects which he hopes will be completed this year:

   a) The house near St Mary’s which is currently owned by St Mary’s church will be sold later this month. The buyers are paying cash. The current tenant is expected to be moving out at the end of the month.
   b) The handicapped bathroom at St Mary’s is almost completed as painting and a final building inspection is all that is left to do.
   c) The lift at St Mary’s needs a new lift and will be put out for bid.
   d) The parking lot at St. John’s needs resurfacing.
   e) The bell tower at St John’s church needs to be fixed structurally as well as the two chimneys in old parish center/office.
   f) There is a plan to create a new walkway in back of St. John’s church.

5) Other projects discussed were:

   a) The Solar Panel project will not be revisited until other local parishes has completed this project on their sites. A couple of parishes in Lawrence and Andover are currently in the process of completing this project.
   b) Due to office staff having a large amount of work backlog, Father Brian stated he would be giving all office staff a few days a year in the office to work on only what is outstanding and not to answer phones, emails, etc.
   c) Karen Drake asked if floors at St. Marys can be cleaned on a regular basis. Father Brian confirmed that it is a known issue and stated that he is having a hard time completing this task as he cannot retain a custodian to help Steven as those who have been hired recently did not stay.
d) Karen also asked about repainting the inside of the churches. Father Brian said that will be addressed at ‘both’ churches once the other projects are finished.

e) The sound system is another project on the horizon that will be looked at as well once.

In closing the discussion on this subject matter, Father Brian directed everyone to contact either him, Dan, Paul, or Lilliana when issues come up in regards to the facilities in the future.

6) Next on the agenda was the prep work required for the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner which will be held on April 28th at St. Mary’s parish hall. Angie McMaster handed out and explained the sign-up task list needed to make this a success. She asked if it was possible to get into the kitchen Thursday night April 26th. Father Brian asked her to check with Rae Russo to coordinate this and to determine if the facility will be available that night. Friday will be used to complete outstanding tasks which Julie Seitter will lead. One hundred fifty to two hundred are expected to attend this ‘free’ event. The Finance councils will also receive an email pertaining to this. People who need gluten free pasta would need to bring their own pasta. Father’s Brian’s sauce will be fine for everyone.

7) Cliff Mann had a question about the process of who carries the gift offering during the Masses held at St. Mary’s. He felt there appeared to be confusion at times as to who is bringing up the gifts during Mass. It was stated that there is a list made out ahead of time prior to Mass as to who or what family will be doing this task during the upcoming weekend Masses.

8) Paul Sidari presented the concept of the One Million Hail Mary’s Challenge. He’s received much support and would really like this to be a collaborative effort between both parishes. The goal is for one million ‘Hail Marys’ be prayed from May through October. A jug will be placed at each parish. Those who pray the Hail Mary during the week are asked to write down how many they’ve said, write that number down on a piece of paper and place that paper into the jug. Paul will empty the jugs every week to get a weekly count. For those who will not be able to get to one of the jugs, they can email Paul the count. These counts will be posted frequently in order to stay focused on the overall goal. He is also having Rosaries made that will be available near the jugs as the praying the rosary contains 53 Hail Marys.

9) The agenda item to discuss chapter 4 of the ‘Dynamic Catholic’ book was ‘tabled’ and will remain an agenda item for the next meeting.

10) Round Table topics of discussion

Chickie Rigazio began this portion of the meeting by proposing that a room in the new parish center be named in honor of Chris Moran who will be 100 years of age soon. She felt this dedication is well deserved due to her many years of involvement with the parish in the past. Father Brian said it was a great idea so long as there is a room open. She also mentioned that the handicapped door to the church has been left open on occasion which means anyone could walk into the church during the day or night. Father Brian asked her to contact Paul Faricano.

Cliff Mann stated that the Saint Vincent de Paul box is still being worked on.

Father Brian is still working on the aide for the victim of the hurricanes that hit down south a few months ago.

Peter Lando asked about the status of the Catholic Appeal. Father Brian reported that both parishes are doing extremely well and are past the assessment figure well on their way to make their goals. His also stated that both parishes are currently running in the ‘black’ for this fiscal year with three months to go.

Mike Condor expressed his concern about the ‘traffic flow’ at the front of the church during Communion at St. Johns. Lines get crossed up with people receiving and those already received and on their way to either their pews or for the wine. Father Brian asked Mike to discuss this with him outside this meeting in order to get a better visual of how this is happening so proper correction can be made.
Jessica Hagg shared an idea she ‘received’ on Good Friday in order to get a monthly group together from both parishes to determine how to start a youth homeless ministry that could serve in Boston. Paul Sidari suggested for her to talk with Tom Callery who currently leads this effort on his own with many donations he receives. Father Brian supported Jessica’s idea but was concerned with safety and liability. If minors are to be part of this ministry there would need to be a formal process in order make sure the church is protected from liability.

Closing prayer was offered for Father Tom who is currently recovering in a local hospital from a recent fall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

**Next meeting May 6th, 2018 at Saint Mary’s new parish center – 7 pm**

**Paul Sidari will present closing prayer**

Respectfully submitted

YBIC

Ray Wagner