Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

Pastoral Council Meeting

June 2nd, 2019

The meeting was held at the new parish center at Saint Mary’s and called to order at 7:05 pm

Role call of council members and guests:

Angie McMaster (co-chair)  Ray Wagner  Jessica Hagg (absent)
Peter Lando (co-chair)  Chickie Rigazio  Paul Therrien
Father Brian Mahoney  Mike Condor  Laura Conte
Cliff Mann  Scott Davidson  Augustine Tweneh (absent)
Matthew Larson (youth) (absent)  Julie Seitter  Karen Drake
Ellen St. George  Lori McDonald  Rob Donnelly
Beth Jacavanco  Delaney Schiefen (youth) (absent)  Father Corey Bassett-Tirrell
Seminarian Nick Stano

1) The meeting began with an opening prayer led by Father Brian using the iBreviary phone app.

2) The minutes from the May meeting were approved.

3) The group welcomed newly ordained Priest Father Corey Bassett-Tirrell to our Collaborative. Father Corey is taking the place of Father Tom Corcoran.

4) Review of proposed Mass schedule changes was the first item up for discussion on the agenda. The 6:00pm Mass on Sunday evenings will be celebrated at Saint John’s during the summer months this year. Many shared their thoughts about the other proposed changes to the Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning schedules at both parishes and potential impacts.

5) Father Brian gave update on some of the facilities projects.
   a) Saint John’s heating system needs to be redone. Over the years, the heating system has been ‘patched’ and ‘added’ onto as time has gone by.
   b) Saint John’s bell tower and chimney also needs to be repaired. Father Brian is hoping to have it done during the summer. But the issue is the availability of masons. He will know within two weeks what these two masonry type projects will cost.
   c) He is also looking into having the plumbing in the rectory at Saint John’s be upgraded as well due to age.
   d) The lift project at Saint Mary’s is progressing and will cost around $ 55k when completed.
   e) Filling the cracks on the surface of the parking lot at Saint Mary’s is also on the list to be completed.
   f) The doors at Saint Mary’s church are also in much need of repair / replacement. The cost to replace doors is approximately 8k to 10k apiece.
   g) The phone system is also being replaced.
   h) Father Brian then stated that there are more items on the facilities project list which are not as critical. He will work on the list with his staff and provide the list to the P.C.C. when it is available.

6) Ellen St. George stated that people are having a hard time determining where the new Parish Center is at Saint Johns. They are getting confused determining the old parish center from the new parish center and other buildings at Saint Johns. She proposed that signage be put up. Father Brian agreed. A determination needs to be made as the best place to put them.

7) Newly ordained Priest Matt Walter will come back to lead the celebrations of Mass on June 11 and 12. On June 11th he will lead Mass at Saint Mary’s at 7:00pm and then the 9:00 daily Mass at Saint John’s the following day.
8) A quick update on the new members to join the Pastoral Collaborative Council (P.C.C.) was discussed next. New members will be randomly selected soon and invited to the September P.C.C. meeting.

9) Father Brian gave a quick update on the new C.C.D. program. With Fran Andersen leaving to take on a new position at another parish, he is still working on the staffing for the C.C.D. program between both parishes to assist Heather Hannaway. As of now, the student registrations appear to be the same as they have been in recent years for those in their sacramental years. If registrations are down for the other years of study, phone calls will be made to the parents of children in these grades as Father Brian stated making phone calls has been successful in the past. The classes for the new C.C.D. program will occur on Sunday mornings as a method of bringing entire families back to attending church on a regular basis and getting the parents more involved with their children’s faith formation. Our collaborative will be the largest one in the area to use this new C.C.D. program format. Our experience and input will be used for other parishes who may be using this same program in the future.

10) A final recap of Father Brian’s annual Spaghetti Dinner which was held in April was discussed. Julie Seitter stated we need more paper products and salad bowls for next year as she purchased some on your own. She also recommended that having one person in charge of next year’s dinner be considered. Instead of having volunteers just signing up for tasks online, this person would be responsible for assigning tasks fairly and coordinating the volunteers as it appeared to be a bit unorganized without a ‘leader’. Cliff Mann mentioned that there was not enough salad. Ellen St. George stated we didn’t have enough desserts either and that there was not a good variety. One parishioner asked if there could also be more of a selection for beverages. More flavored waters will be added to the list for next year. Father Brian commented that since this is a ‘free’ event to the parishioners, he doesn’t mind people volunteering to bring different food / beverage items but this should not be a requirement. Laura Conte suggested using half trays instead of full trays when moving the spaghetti and sauce to the full trays above the sterno burners as two half trays fit in the large trays and are easier to handle. Lori McDonald stated we had too much butter and raw hamburg leftover.

11) The group then shared their thoughts on today’s Gospel. Beth Jacavanco really liked the homily Father Colletti gave on this gospel. Scott Davidson felt the earlier reading from the Acts of the Apostles involving Saint Stephen’s martyrdom had more of an impact on him. Ellen St. George followed up with comments in agreement with Scott.

12) Round table discussion
Lori McDonald stated that as she brought an engaged couple over to Saint Mary’s for a ‘walk through’ there was an issue with tile. Father Brian said he will look into it.
Paul Therrien mentioned there are acoustic problems with the sound system at Saint Mary’s. Father Brian responded that this is being caused by interference with the portable mics.
Rob Donnelly suggested we should probably think about a ‘welcome home’ / ‘don’t go away’ program as attendance dipped last summer when the last abuse crisis surfaced and that the Evangelization committee should be started again. Father Brian said that Father Ren was going to lead this committee last year before his ‘promotion’ to another parish but did not have another staff member available to take his place on this committee. He reported that attendance did dip last summer but has begun to make a recovery.
Ellen St. George mentioned the Strawberry festival faith at Saint John’s will occur next weekend (June 8th/9th). The money raised will go towards faith formation scholarships.
Beth Jacavanco stated that her ministry had over 100 prayer shawls blessed over the past month. She explained these are for people who are not only ill but who also are in need of a hug. She said anyone can reach out to her or Ellen.
Scott Davidson reported that Father O’Brien was grateful to be at our parish leading Mass on Ascension Thursday. Karen Drake stated that she would like to see a generic email account be set up in the collaborative for those looking to volunteer in our parishes. Karen knows of parishioners who are looking to volunteer that don’t get called back when they leave messages. Father Brian agreed it was a good idea and would use it as part of the advertisement for the ministry fair being held in September.
Julie Seitter announced that youth ministry has dropped off drastically. Father Brian agreed and added it has been declining for quite some time. He said Courtney Callanan is trying to come up with creative ways in this area as it harder to entice youth in be involved in the church, as church seems to have dropped off the priority list for some families due to their children’s schedules being so consistently structured due to sports and other activities.

13) **List of tasks to be completed prior to next month’s meeting**
   a) Review of monthly meeting minutes by ALL P.C.C. members once they are sent via email by Ray.
   b) Selection of new P.C.C. members notified and invited to the September meeting.
   c) Update on facility projects by Father Brian.
   d) Update on the C.C.D. program and registrations.

Closing prayer was an ‘Our Father’

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm

Next meeting is currently scheduled for Sunday September 8th, 2019 – 7 pm

Respectfully submitted

YBIC

Ray Wagner