Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

Pastoral Council Meeting

March 3rd, 2019

The meeting was held at the new parish center at Saint Mary’s and called to order at 7:07 pm

Role call of council members and guests:

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

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

2) The minutes from the January meeting were approved as there was no meeting in February.

3) Father Brian gave a quick update on the financial issues both parishes are currently experiencing. As planned, the Development Committee has been established and has met once so far and will continue to meet monthly until the end of June. They are currently looking to recruit more members. The immediate objective of this committee is to assist Father Brian on how to reduce the budget deficit which is currently just over $50,000 at each parish and are in need of financial relief ASAP! Three phases will be implemented between now and June in order to try and accomplish this objective. The first phases will consist of Father Brian asking every parishioner to prayerfully consider giving a lump sum donation as well as more in the weekly offertory. He also stated that he believes in all of the good programs (ex: new Faith Formation) going on but our financial constraints are a cause for concern right now in being able to maintain some of the programs at the current level they are at. Office staffing has already been reduced as capital projects at both parishes still need to be addressed (ie: the bell tower at Saint John’s). He may need to look at other options if we do not improve our financial positions soon. Parishioners will also be asked to reach out to one another and talk about the importance trying our best to resolve this crisis. He feels confident that the parishioners will come through as other parishes in the Archdiocese are going through this as well. Peter Lando asked about the possibility of taking up a collection during the daily Masses. Father Brian will think about it and may bring it up to the Finance Council to discuss.

4) Although the Archdiocese ‘may’ offer our Collaborative a third priest, we cannot afford one at this time as an average priest costs between $60,000 to $70,000 in salary, housing and benefits.

5) A brief discussion of the of the new Faith Formation program was discussed. Even though the Collaborative is experiencing financial difficulties, no child will be left behind should their family not be able to afford the cost.

6) The annual Spaghetti Supper, currently scheduled for Saturday April 27th at St. Mary’s parish hall, was next up on the agenda. Father Brian stated will start cooking around 7:00am that day. Angie McMaster is almost done with the online volunteer sign-up program/sheet. She is hoping to have it available by the end of the week.

7) Angie then gave an update on the Godspell play which will be performed at Saint John’s on March 9th and 10th. She is very excited on how extremely well the preparation has been going so far. These performances will be completely free to those attending but donations will be gratefully accepted. Video recording will not be allowed however due to copyright restrictions.
8) Father Brian was asked for his input on the meeting in Rome that took place recently. At this time he has no comments as documents are still to be published over the next few months.

9) Mike Condor asked Father Brian if Confessions can be done in a communal way. Father Brian stated that this Sacrament cannot be done this way as Confessions must be one on one with a priest. The person making the Confession can either do this via ‘face to face’ or ‘separate space’ with the priest. If any parishioners would like a non-parish Priest, Father Brian has arranged for Priests from other parishes to assist with Confessions during Lent.

10) Angie McMaster than began a brief discussion of today’s Gospel. The Sunday Gospels over the past few weeks covered a few of the parables Jesus taught. Although it was not pre-planned, some of these parables had already been incorporated as part of the Godspell play thereby allowing the participants in the play a better understanding of these parables. Scott Davidson said the message he got out of today’s Gospel was to ‘watch the words that come out of your mouth’. In Peter Lando’s opinion, too many Catholics won’t ‘call out’ or share with others what is they see wrong within society in their everyday lives due to trying to be too politically correct.

11) Round table discussion
a) Peter Lando asked about acknowledgements of those who donated to the new parish center at Saint Marys. Father Brian said that is being worked on.

b) Paul Therrien asked about where the library was at Saint Marys. It was moved and is located now in one of the conference rooms.

c) Ray Wagner notified the group about a monthly men’s meetings he attends once a month on Saturday mornings from 10 to 1:30 at the Bettania II Retreat Center in Medway, Massachusetts. He asked any man present who was interested in attending a future meeting to contact him.

d) Jessica Hagg promoted the ‘Young Life’ program and website she is a part of. She invited anyone interested to attend their upcoming banquet.

 e) Ellen St. George encouraged everyone to attend the St. Patrick’s day dinner to be held at Saint Johns on Saturday March 16th. Fifty tickets have been sold so far and are looking to sell more. The cost is $18 per ticket. There will be twenty-five raffle baskets and a 50/50 taking place at this event. Those who wish to drink beer or wine can bring their own.

f) Mike Condor asked about the phrase that was used during the morning Mass he attended as it related to people who would not be able to leave their homes to receive Ashes or Communion next week. The phrase used was ‘shut in’. The connotation is something he thought a little insensitive for some and the phrase ‘home bound’ may have been more appropriate.

 g) Julie Seitter asked if we are doing anything with the ‘Formed’ program during Lent. Father Brian stated parishioners can log on and use it but there is nothing formal going on within the parishes.

h) Angie McMaster brought up that Thursday night Bingo at St. Johns is looking for more volunteers to help out once a month.

i) Cliff Mann mentioned that the Saint Michael prayer has started to be recited at some parishes. Father Brian said it will start with us during Lent.

12) 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) Father Brian to think about collections at daily Masses.

c) Everyone to sign up for tasks for the Spaghetti Dinner on April 27th once Angie has online program ready.

d) Volunteer at St. Johns Bingo on Thursday night for those who are interested / available.

Closing prayer was presented by Scott Davidson

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

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

Respectfully submitted
YBIC
Ray Wagner