Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

Pastoral Council Meeting

April 7th, 2019

The meeting was held at the new parish center at Saint Mary’s and called to order at 7:10 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
Matthew Larson (youth) (absent) Julie Seitter Karen Drake (absent)
Ellen St. George Lori McDonald (absent) Rob Donnelly
Beth Jacavanco Delaney Schiefen (youth) (absent) Matt Walter

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

2) The minutes from the March meeting were approved.

3) Father Brian informed the group that Father Tom Corcoran will be leaving us June 1st. We do not know at this time who will replace him or where he is going. He has been here for almost 8 years which is a longer than normal assignment for a Priest. Father Brian then explained the process on how Priests transfer from parish to parish. There will be a sendoff reception for him a couple of weeks before he leaves.

4) He then gave an update on the deficit fundraising status. He stated it could not be going any better as it appears the deficit at both parishes will be wiped out ahead of schedule. He was ‘blown away’ on how quickly the parishioners responded. Even the annual Catholic appeal at both parishes is doing very well as Saint Mary’s is already over 100% of the goal established while Saint John’s is currently at 87%.

5) An update on how the parish is trying to continue to save money was discussed next. Recently a young parishioner approached Father Brian about doing the landscaping for the Collaborative. A more efficient phone and cost saving phone system is also being looked into. Father Brian stated that due to the amount of work the current staff has on their plates, we need to hire more staff but due to current financial constraints this will have to wait.

6) An update on facilities projects was tabled until the next meeting as Father Brian has a meeting with staff involved over the next week. Some of the projects are: the doors and elevator repairs at Saint Mary’s, placing names of donors in the chapel at Saint Mary’s, etc.

7) Peter Lando began a discussion on the Lenten activities that have gone on between both parishes.
   a) Soup and Stations appears to have been well attended. The idea of doing this on more Fridays throughout the year was presented. It would require someone to take the lead.
   b) Julie Sietter stated that the Godspell play that was performed by our youth on multiple days at Saint John’s was extraordinarily moving in her opinion. Angie McMaster explained how rewarding it was for her to be a part of this production as they are being asked to perform this play at other locations.
   c) Father Brian stated that people have definitely been taking advantage of the Confession times at both parishes.
   d) Holy Triduum (Holy Thursday thru Easter Sunday) plans were discussed next.
   e) Ellen St. George encouraged all to attend the thirty minute Taize service also being offered.
   f) Father Brian then explained a similar prayer service called the Tenebrae that will occur the Wednesday evening of holy week.
8) Beth Jacavenco reported that she has been receiving compliments on the ‘live stream’ programming at both churches. The only issue, which is a concern, is that the acoustics at Saint John’s is making it hard for some to hear. Father Brian mentioned that part of the problem is that the speakers need to remain stationary and secure in order to improve the sound quality as they are sometimes moved. He will be looking into a temporary fix as within the next few years the plan is to have the inside of Saint John’s renovated. This sound issue will be permanently addressed at that time.

9) The annual Spaghetti Supper, currently scheduled for Saturday April 27th at St. Mary’s parish hall, was next up on the agenda. Angie McMaster explained to the new council members present the history behind this event and how to volunteer online as there are more open slots to sign up for and volunteer. This is a ‘all hands on deck’ event. Her concerns are that we may still not have enough people to volunteer. Father Brian said it was okay to reach out to more ministries for assistance.

10) Father Brian is hoping to plan a parish based trip to the Holy Land in March of 2021. There would be 45 total slots available between both parishes.

11) Mike Condor gave an update on the new mother’s group at Saint Johns which just recently formed and gathers after the 8:30 Mass on Sundays as his wife belongs to this group. A question came up about the upcoming new faith formation program with mothers who have multiple young children. Father Brian stated that the program is designed to be ‘family friendly’. Babysitting will be offered to those in need with young children. He has received positive feedback from some on the convenience of this program by being able to go to 8:30 Mass as a family followed by the Faith Formation program.

12) Round table discussion
   Cliff Mann asked about when do we need to get new council members on board. Father Brian asked if Angie McMaster and Peter Lando could get ahold of the parish office in order to get the boxes and nomination forms available at the churches before the next meeting.
   Ellen St. George mentioned the success of the Saint Patrick’s day dinner at Saint Johns as she serves on the hospitality committee at St. Johns. She also serves on the prayer shawl ministry. She said 100 shawls will be blessed between Saint John’s and Saint Mary’s over the next month. Beth Jacavanco mentioned as leader of the prayer shawl ministry, that prayer shawls are meant to be a gift with no money exchange. But some have taken advantage of this and have been taking more than deemed fair. So they limit now how many they put out at a time.
   Rob Donnelly asked for clarification on the elevator at Saint Mary’s. Father Brian responded that he is waiting a little longer for more funding to come in.
   Laura Conte asked about the removing of a pew in St Mary’s’. Father Brian asked her to send him an email reminder.
   Ray Wagner encouraged all who have not seen the movie ‘Unplanned’, to go see it. It is currently playing at the AMC theaters in Methuen. It is a true about the unconscionable truth of the abortion industry. Was given an ‘R’ rating due to the first scene of the movie. Even though the rest of the movie would probably have given it a PG-13 rating, young children should probably not watch this movie.

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) Father Brian to give update on facilities projects.
   c) Recap of the Spaghetti Dinner and concerns for next year.
   d) Angie and Cliff to get ahold of the office to place nomination boxes for future Parish Council members.
   e) Removal of pew at Saint Mary’s.

Closing prayer was presented by Mike Condor

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Next meeting is currently scheduled for Sunday May 5th, 2019 – 7 pm