

FROM THE PASTOR: SALE OF THE BAINBRIDGE HOUSE

AUGUST 2020

The decision to sell the rectory on Bainbridge Street was not quickly taken. As I understand it about 25 years ago Fr. Frank moved from the rectory, now the current parish offices, to the house on Bainbridge Street. Previous to that, a religious sister, Pastoral Associate, lived there. The idea to sell the house came up almost two years ago when Fr. Darin became the Pastor for the Methuen Collaborative and I became Administrator and then Pastor of the Reading Collaborative. The reason for Collaboratives being set up in the Archdiocese is the lack of priests and Cardinal O'Malley's desire not to close parishes. Since the rectory at St. Agnes is larger, the priests are living there. As there was so much change two years ago none of us wanted to tackle the issue with the house on Bainbridge Street beyond talking with a real estate agent about the possibilities: no decisions were made at that time. It is obvious that it is not good for a house to remain unoccupied and as we began a conversation about this, Fr. Erikson arrived and solved the "temporary" problem.

The financial picture of the parish has not been good for a couple of years and the COVID shutdown has only made matters worse. A few months ago the Finance Council met with a representative of the Archdiocese to discuss our options with regard to the Bainbridge house. As you can imagine it was a very lively meeting. We then had a joint meeting with the Finance & Parish Councils and the decision was made to sell the house. We also felt it necessary to send a Financial Report to parishioners and ask for comments on the possible sale. There have been two responses: one to sell; and a "group letter" not to sell. It has been a very difficult decision to make but considering the very active real estate market it is best for the financial stability of St. Athanasius Parish to proceed with the sale of the Bainbridge house.

As tough as this is, the good news is that Fr. Erikson will be moving to the Parish Offices' location only a few feet away.

God bless,

Fr. Steve Rock