

Special Announcement Regarding Collaboration

Dear Parishioners,

I have some important news to update you with concerning our upcoming collaboration as part of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan known as *Disciples in Mission*. *Disciples in Mission* is the Pastoral Plan promulgated by Cardinal Seán O'Malley in 2012 based on the recommendations of the Pastoral Planning Commission. Each year during the last nine years parishes were selected to enter collaboratives. Now in the tenth year of this effort all the remaining parishes in the Archdiocese will enter collaboratives. This includes Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish.

Locally we have seen parishes become collaboratives. St. Monica and St. Lucy entered "multi-parish collaborative" in the first phase of *Disciples in Mission*. St. Michael in North Andover entered a "standalone parish collaborative" in the second phase of the plan. The Archdiocese has informed me that Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish will become a standalone parish collaborative by June of 2023. This is a change from what was the plan before when we anticipated forming a collaborative with St. Patrick in South Lawrence.

As a single parish collaborative, we will need to participate in the process outlined in *Disciples in Mission*. I would encourage everyone to read the pastoral plan available at the Archdiocesan website at this link: <https://parish.bostoncatholic.org/disciples-mission>. To summarize very briefly the plan has two parts. Part One concerns itself with "Strengthening Parishes for the Work of the New Evangelization". Part Two focuses on "Strengthening the Work of the New Evangelization in Parishes". In the coming months we will be learning more about this effort and recruiting parish leaders to help get this work underway.

Because we are entering a new phase in our life as a parish by becoming a standalone collaborative one of the necessary steps is that a Pastor be appointed to lead the standalone collaborative parish. I was asked to indicate my intentions regarding this and whether I would want to be named as Pastor of the collaborative. I sent Cardinal Sean a letter indicating that I would like to be considered for this position. I would ask that you join me in prayer that God's Will is done and that whatever decisions are made will be the best possible outcome for Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish.

I look forward to this pastoral planning process as an opportunity to refresh ourselves in our precious gift of faith, and to renew ourselves in the Mission of the Church, to build up the Kingdom of God in our midst, and to cooperate with the Spirit of the Living God to bring souls to Christ. I look forward to doing that work with you, here at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish.