



CARDINAL'S OFFICE
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BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135-3193

February 22, 2007

Reverend Arnold F. Colletti
Pastor, Sacred Heart and St. Brigid
2001 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421-4812

Dear Father Colletti,

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your many efforts, particularly during the past year, to plan for the future of the Catholic community in Lexington while you also provide for the pastoral care of Sacred Heart and St. Brigid parishes. Your commitment to the good of the Church and the people you serve is a blessing for us all.

At this time I would like to share with you my decision about your proposal for Lexington. It has consistently been my intention that a united Catholic community in Lexington would acknowledge the diversity of both parishes and utilize their collective energies and resources for the good of all. For this to succeed over time, I have decided that both Sacred Heart and St. Brigid should continue to be canonical parishes and that they should continue to share a single pastor. It is my strong desire that the parishes work together collaboratively and without duplication of effort, in particular I am asking that the following guidelines be followed:

- The two Parish Pastoral Councils will meet jointly, however they should maintain their identity as two separate councils, specifically being elected separately, and available to meet separately should issues arise that clearly affect only one of the parishes.
- Although each parish will maintain its own Parish Pastoral and Finance Council, joint meetings of both Councils are to be held according to a planned schedule so that continuous efforts are made to develop a more unified Catholic community in Lexington.
- There will be a single parish staff to serve both parishes.
- There will be common bulletin for the Catholic Community in Lexington
- All parish ministries (e.g. Worship, Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Adult Education, etc.) will meet jointly. Each Commission will continue to have representation from each parish.
- Liturgical schedules and Religious Education class assignments will be planned through collaboration, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
- The Parish Finance Councils will keep the finances of both parishes separate, and there should be a separate account for ministries and salaries that are shared between the two parishes.

Once again, I thank you for your generous leadership of Sacred Heart and St. Brigid parishes. Please convey my gratitude to the Parish Staff, the Parish Councils and all your parishioners not only for the efforts up to this time, but also for the faith and hope that will sustain a diverse but unified Catholic Community in Lexington.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Seán P. O'Malley
Archbishop of Boston