

**Minutes of the Twenty Fourth Combined Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
Sacred Heart and St. Brigid Parishes  
Emergency Meeting in Closed Session  
Keilty Hall – Saint Brigid Church  
Lexington, Massachusetts  
February 24, 2007 11:00 a.m.**

**Parish Pastoral Council Members in Attendance:**

Rev. Arnold F. Colletti, Gerald Abegg, Dot Boggia, Jack Cunha, Frank DiPietro, Mary Ellen Goodwin, Jane Goubeaux, MaryLynne Hedley, Donna Heuchling, Marie Hill, Paul Laffey, John Mahoney, Stephen McKenna, Bob McNamara, Kathryn Rapperport,

**Other Attendees:**

**Staff:** Suzie Barry, George Begin, Megan Chenaille, Bill Grzybowski, Claire Martin, Rev. William Smith, Anne Willhite

**Meeting Purpose:**

*To hear the Cardinal's decision concerning the Catholic Community in Lexington.*

Father Colletti began the meeting with an Opening Prayer at 11:10 a.m.

Father Colletti stated he had received a letter from Cardinal O'Malley in which the Cardinal's intentions are clear regarding the Catholic Community in Lexington. The letter had been hand delivered by Father McMillan on Friday afternoon, February 23<sup>rd</sup> to Father Colletti. A meeting of the Combined Parish Pastoral Council was called as soon as possible. Father Colletti indicated he would be going to every weekend Mass to read the letter to the parishioners and would also make copies of the letter available after the Masses. The letter was passed out to the Council Members and time was allowed to read it.

Father Colletti reviewed the time line of his meetings with the Cardinal and the Cardinal's staff regarding coming to a decision he then read the letter from the Cardinal to the Council Members and asked for their comments.

**Council Members Comments to the Cardinal's Decision:**

Council Member John Mahoney asked if the letter was essentially Father Colletti's proposal that the Cardinal accepted. Father Colletti replied yes. Mr. Mahoney further asked if it was status quo. Father Colletti stated he hoped that with the decision of two identified canonical parishes the Friends of Sacred Heart would stop meeting and the Parish Councils would take the reigns and work on collaboration and strengthening the ministries. He spoke of the work that has already begun on the mission statement and the Cardinal's desire for a unified Catholic Community in Lexington. Father Colletti stated that any changes in the letter from his proposal are due to canonical regulations, i.e. there is no mention of the sale property in the letter but that the Cardinal is still looking for something in return. Council Member Kathryn Rapperport stated she did not see anything about property in the letter. Father Colletti reiterated the sale of property was not in the letter and the only property that may be available would be the Sacred Heart Rectory however, he does not want it to appear that Sacred Heart is being diminished. Council Member Gerry Abegg asked for clarification as to if the Cardinal did ask for something

in return. Father Colletti replied yes, the Cardinal did ask for something. Council Member Kathryn Rapperport voiced her concerns over whether the letter was the will of the Cardinal or the will of the Pastor. Father Colletti stated he made his proposal to the Cardinal and did not know the result until he got the letter but he understands that until a week before the letter, the intent of the Cardinal was merger. Ms Rapperport also wondered if a single staff is canonically justifiable. Council Member Mary Lynne Hedley stated there was a lot to react to in the letter and that time is needed to think about it all. Several Council Members agreed with Ms. Hedley for the need to absorb the letter and talk to Parishioners and get feedback. Father Colletti stressed the need for Council Members to be committed to making the decision work and meeting the conditions in the letter or it would be back to the drawing board or the first paragraph of the letter could be rescinded. Council Member Donna Heuchling asked the Council Members if they would be comfortable with Father Colletti stating when he speaks to the Parishioners that the CPPC met and all present agreed to be committed to making the decision work. All present were polled; all agreed they were committed. Father Colletti stated the letter would also be posted to the web site and copies left on the tables in Church.

Father Colletti led the Council in the Closing Prayer.

**NEXT MEETING:** Sunday, March 11, 2007, 7:30 p.m. in Keilty Hall at Saint Brigid Church

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie Barry