



Living Our Faith... Sharing Our Blessings

SAINT ANNE - SAINT CATHERINE COLLABORATIVE

MEET OUR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COUNCILS

*LEADING THE WAY IN FOSTERING
STEWARDSHIP AS A WAY OF LIFE*

Bob Stall and his family joined St. Anne's 27 years ago, and in the years since, the parish community has been blessed with six different pastors. For Bob, this reinforces the call to live stewardship, for the responsibility of our faith community rests on the community, and not just on one individual.

"In embracing stewardship we have to recognize that, in the end, the health of the parish, both spiritually and fiscally, is really up to its parishioners," says Bob, Chair of St. Anne's Finance and Administration Council. "We truly are the stewards of our parish."

The Finance and Administration Councils for our Collaborative assist the pastor in overseeing decisions relating to the finances and maintenance of the parishes. The two Councils consists of a group of parishioners, six from St. Anne's ad six from



St. Anne's Finance and Administration Council members (from left) Mike Whitney, Jackie Welham, Gloria Rios-Monarrez and Bob Stall

St. Catherine's, who are committed to stewarding the Collaborative's finances.

"Although each parish has its own Finance and Administration Council that is responsible for each parish's separate budget, we do share a number of collaborative expenses," Bob says. "For this reason, we meet jointly about 10 times a year."

Before meetings, the council members gather in
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Finance and Administration Councils

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the rectory for food and fellowship.

"It is a great opportunity to get to know the other members, as well as sample some of Fr. Peter's wonderful cooking," Bob says. "He really does a great job!"

During the meetings, members plan for the future financial needs of the parishes and work with Dave LeBleu, Collaborative Finance and Operations Director, and Ron Cajole, the Collaborative Accountant, to generate a balanced budget each year.

"Recently we worked on the budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, which needed to be turned in to the Archdiocese," Bob says. "In order to balance the budgets, we took a hard look at things that can be done to help save each parish money."

Bob believes that the Councils need to communicate frankly about the true cost of operations. Last year's operating expenses for St. Anne's were \$572,000 and St. Catherine's were \$1,178,000.

"When it comes to 'treasure,' which everyone seems to associate with our Councils, I hope the parishioners reflect on their giving not out of a sense of obligation but out of a desire to see the parishes become all that we want them to be," Bob says.

When we speak of sharing our "time" and "talent," we are similarly speaking about how to best use our resources for the common good of the Collaborative.

"Stewardship is about having each parishioner think deeply about what it means to be a Catholic and to live our faith more fully in our everyday life," Bob says. "Reflect on the work our parishes do and consider what our own involvement in those works are."

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Currently the St. Anne Council is seeking another parishioner member. While a financial background would be helpful, it certainly isn't necessary.

"I think anyone who understands the rudiments of money management would be welcome," Bob says. "There is no election to the Councils, and Fr. Peter appoints qualified individuals. Reach out to me if you are interested."

Having been part of St. Anne's community for nearly three decades, Bob feels excited about the positive impact of stewardship on our parishes as we look to the future.

"I really enjoy serving on the Council, especially these last couple of years during which I've felt a greater sense of energy in the Collaborative" Bob says. "Maybe that is because I am becoming more involved and putting more energy into my faith life. Whatever the reason, it is awesome!"

For more information about the Finance and Administration Councils, please contact Bob Stall at rstall@stalladvisors.com or Tom Sangiolo at Sangiolo1@verizon.net.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Pastor's Comments on Sexual Abuse Crisis

Dear Parishioners,

On August 26, 2018 parishioners came together in an atmosphere of openness to the Holy Spirit, to express their pain, anger, and disgust with the Church's handling of sexual abuse by priests. Fr. Joe and I are truly grateful to all who came together to support one another in order to address the traumatic wounds to their hearts, souls and Church. Anger simply means caring about something and wanting to fix it. As we know, anger is hazardous only when it is suppressed because it can spawn cold contempt. Recalling the words of St. Peter, "to whom shall we go, Lord?", as we struggle with our pain and bewilderment. We all need God's grace to confront the truth, to hold one another accountable and name the darkness of one's behavior and that of others out of authentic love. Fr. Ron Rolheiser's recent article in *The Pilot* reminds us of the writer, Carlo Carretto and the personal struggles he encountered with the Church in the book, *I Sought and I Found*. His writing embraces his love of the Church with an ardent refusal to deny the very real faults of Christians and the Church itself. I encourage you to reflect on his message as I have:

"How much I must criticize you, my Church and yet how much I love you! You have made me suffer more than anyone and yet I owe you more than I owe anyone. I should like to see you destroyed and yet I need your presence. You have given me much scandal yet you alone have made me understand holiness. Countless times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face - and yet, every night, I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms! No, I cannot be free of you, for I am one with you, even if not completely you. Then too -



where should I go? To build another Church? But I cannot build another Church without the same defects, for they are my own defects. And again, if I were to build another Church, it would be my Church, not Christ's Church. I am old enough to know that I am no better than others. I shall not leave this Church, founded on so frail a rock, because I should be founding another one on an even frailer rock: myself. And then, what do rocks matter? What matters is Christ's promise, what matters is the cement that binds the rocks into one: The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit alone can build the Church with stones as ill-hewn as we!"

One of the positive outcomes for me was the parishioners' awareness that they need to be warmly welcomed and truly involved in the decision-making process of the Church. The words of Teddy Roosevelt seem to describe the feelings of many Catholics today: "I have always had the horror of words that are not translated into deeds or speech that does not result in action." We need to witness deeds and actions where we are all held accountable for our behavior! The Church, with all its weaknesses cannot overwhelm the self-communicating love of God OR the life-giving, faith-filled lives that we experience from one another.

God Love,

Fr. Peter Quinn, Pastor

OUR COLLABORATIVE

Sharing in an Im

Here at St. Anne and St. Catherine, we are truly blessed to have Fr. Peter Quinn and Fr. Joe Rossi, who are dedicated to helping all parishioners grow closer to the Lord. With them, there are both staff and volunteer parishioners working faithfully to help make the pastoral vision for our collaborative parishes a reality, including the office staff, deacons and ministry leaders — to name just a few. One group, however, may be less well known, as their work tends to take place behind the scenes. This invaluable group of parishioners is the Collaborative

Pastoral Council, or CPC, and their primary purpose is to work with Fr. Peter to fulfill the mission of our Collaborative.

The Collaborative Parish Council consists of six parishioners from St. Anne and six from St. Catherine, and meets monthly from September through June, alternating the meeting location between the two parishes. The parish priests and deacons also attend the meetings, and various staff and ministry leaders may be invited to weigh in on certain topics.

Joe McGann, the CPC Co-Chair from St. Catherine,



The St. Anne-St. Catherine Collaborative Parish Council — (from left) Joe McGann, Jackie Welham, Judy Moodie, Oscar Monarrez, Sue Gormley (Pastoral Associate/ex-officio council member), Rita Biagioni, Mihran Keoseian, Francine McGrath, Peg Hicks (Pastoral Associate/ex-officio council member). (Council members not pictured — Wes Baker, Diane Crory, Lisa Dougherty and Valerie Farley.)

THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

Important Mission

explains that the council's main role is to help clarify, define and frame the needs of the Collaborative and its parishioners, and to provide Fr. Peter with recommendations for addressing them.

"We're an advisory body to the pastor," he says. "The focus is on long-term strategic issues, with the tagline 'Moving from maintenance to mission.' If someone wants to establish a major new initiative in the Collaborative, Father will ask us to take a look at it and prepare some recommendations. In addition, the archdiocese asked all the collaboratives to develop a five-year pastoral plan."

Oscar Monarrez, the CPC Co-Chair from St. Anne, notes that maintaining communication between parishioners and the pastor is another key function.

"We've always defined the council as the eyes and ears and voice of the pastor to the parishioners and also the parishioners back to the pastor, to make sure there is a constant communication going," Oscar says. "Fr. Peter is very keen on transparency, and I think that breeds more optimal and open communication, and brings about a better institution for everyone. What we do — and how we do it — is important, and it's important to us that it's in line with what parishioners want. Fr. Peter constantly reminds us that this is not his Collaborative — it is our Collaborative."

Both Joe and Oscar had served on the pastoral councils for their respective parishes before the collaborative was formed, and they have been pleased with how well the councils from St. Anne and St. Catherine have come together to work toward a shared mission. The group has created a strong sense of fellowship among its members by beginning every meeting with a shared meal and something they

call the 'Here and Now,' where each member shares something about what is going on in their life outside of the council.

By cultivating valuable relationships among themselves, the council members have experienced the rewards that come from working together as a collaborative.

"In many respects, the CPC has been leading the collaborative effort by viewing our parishes as a single entity rather than two separate parishes," Oscar says. "Initially, some people had a lot of apprehension about losing their identity as a parish, but I think by now they have seen the CPC as an example of an entity that shares resources and is able to learn from each other and take advantage of what each other has to offer."

Both Oscar and Joe find their participation on the Collaborative Pastoral Council to be deeply rewarding. As they look to the future, they are excited by the opportunities that will continue to come to St. Anne and St. Catherine as this dedicated group of parishioners works together to make our Collaborative a wonderful place to worship and grow in faith.

"All the members are there to ensure that the collaborative model works for us and stands as a model of what parishes can do together to create a welcoming, supportive environment for current and potential parishioners," Joe says. "Ensuring that we foster an environment for our youth that will create the next wave of faithful, dedicated parishioners is another essential aspect of our collaborative pastoral plan."

"What keeps me on the council is a sense of commitment to the Church as an institution and to our parishes as a family," he continues. "We receive a lot in return for everything that we do!"

Parishioners are encouraged to contact our Collaborative Pastoral Council members with any concerns or suggestions they might have regarding parish life by emailing the council at cpc@lwccatholic.org.

NEW MISSION STATEMENT SPEAKS TO OUR FUTURE AS A

Vibrant Collaborative Community

In June 2014, St. Anne Parish and St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish officially became a Collaborative. In September 2016, the Collaborative Pastoral Council (CPC) published our Archdiocesan-approved Collaborative Pastoral Plan. As part of plan implementation, clergy, staff and volunteers, have looked at how we communicate relevant information to our parishioners and ministry leaders/members. We have embraced a wide variety of communication tools to maximize our outreach. These include the bulletins, weekly emails, websites, newsletters, social media, posters and announcements from the pulpit.

Another focus area was development of a Collaborative Mission Statement. Prior to becoming a Collaborative, each parish had its own unique, distinct and lengthy Mission Statement that was included in their respective bulletin. Fr. Peter and the CPC, in the spirit of working together across both parishes, and the desire to be truly one family of faith, felt that adopting a common, Collaborative Mission Statement was appropriate.

Beginning in 2017, Fr. David White led a committee made up of clergy, staff and St. Anne and St. Catherine parish volunteers to work on this effort. This task focused on developing a mission statement that:

- Represented both parishes' unique character;
- Was short, so people could identify with it, and even memorize it; and
- Encompassed our Collaborative vision for the future (not just represent the current state).

After many months of research of what makes a great mission statement, innumerable suggestions, drafts/ variations of these suggestions, reviews and much discernment, the CPC is pleased to announce that we have a new mission statement that speaks to the future of our vibrant Collaborative and is being adopted at both churches:

*Together living our faith
By joyfully following Jesus through
Prayer ~ Evangelization ~ Stewardship*

In addition to the Mission Statement itself, we have created a video that pictorially illustrates our vibrant Collaborative. Check it out on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3RaVan5jJg

It is our hope that this Mission Statement provides a framework guiding all our activities and strengthens our Collaborative-wide community of faith.



St. Catherine Cemetery Committee Taking Loving Care of a Sacred Place

Our St. Catherine of Alexandria Cemetery is a place of reflection, prayer and beauty that, for over 100 years, has provided a dignified location for the burial of our loved ones. The Church identifies the burial of the dead as a corporal work of mercy. But in order for this sacred ground to remain faithful to its purpose, the St. Catherine Cemetery Committee could use your help.

Mary Eve Miller and Margaret (Peg) Donahue, along with the subcommittee members, are working with David LeBleu, Cemetery Manager, to focus on maintenance, improvements, beautification, and planning strategies and history.

"People can help in any number of ways," Margaret says. "They can participate as a member of the committee and bring their interests to our discussion or any skills they have."

Through the work of the committee and parish support, thus far every grave of every veteran of the U.S. military is marked. Every plot has been mapped and is maintained in a database in the church offices.

"Much of the committee's attention is focused on improvements needed," Mary Eve says. "Some sections are gravely in need of soil replenishment, those being Twin Oaks I, II, III and IV. We hope to have this work started this fall."

Another project being studied is that of bringing electricity to the cemetery and digging a well to facilitate watering in the dry summer weather. Anyone with the skills relating to engineering the design of the well, along with the installation of a solar-powered pump, is most welcome.

"Your membership can be short or long-term — if you are willing to assist in support of the people who have given their energy to support Dave as Cemetery Manager," Margaret says. "There is always a need for the wisdom of people who are sensitive to the issue of why we have a Catholic cemetery, and why there is a need for a columbarium or place for the interment of cremains, and how to make it continue to be a sacred place that recognizes the contributions of those who have gone before."

A history subcommittee, led by Mary Eve, is working on gathering the cemetery records regarding the individuals who are buried there.

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Saint Anne - Saint Catherine Collaborative
 75 King St. • Littleton, MA 01460
 978-486-4100 (St. Anne) • 978-692-6353 (St. Catherine)
 www.LittletonCatholic.org • www.StCatherineParish.org

MASS SCHEDULE:

St. Anne Parish:

75 King St., Littleton, MA 01460

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish:

107 North Main St., Westford, MA 01886

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Collaborative Weekday Schedule:

Monday: 8:00 a.m. Mass - St. Anne

Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. Mass - St. Anne

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Prayer Service - St. Anne

Thursday: 8:00 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine

Friday: 8:00 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine

Confessions:

Saturdays: 3:00-3:45 p.m. at both parishes

(or as requested)

St. Catherine Cemetery Committee *continued from page 7*

“Anyone is welcome who would like to participate in this ongoing project,” she says. “If you have a special interest in genealogy, your help would be very much appreciated as we work to make our contributions to the broader community become known. It is one way to encourage ourselves to be participants in helping others and seeking to make this a better place for all.”

One part of the improvement plan called for a planting area centered with the statue of Our Lady.

This work is being undertaken through a Boy Scout Eagle project. When completed, the area will have a bench and plantings around it to give visitors an appropriate place for prayer and meditation.

“We had another scout undertake a project for veterans’ grave markers,” Dave says. “He took 24 bronze markers and put them in concrete to permanently install them. We’ve had markers sink and other cemeteries have had theft issues. We’ve been fortunate not to have any such issues. Our cemetery is open 24/7, and there

are no gates. We are fortunate it is taken care of.”

Helping to care for the cemetery is one way we can live in stewardship.

“It is a way to use our talents to benefit others,” Dave says. “When people are grieving, they want to go to a respectful, reverential place. We hope we’re helping with that in improving the cemetery. We want our families to feel comforted when they are at our cemetery.”

The cemetery is largely self-supporting. However, there are collections taken up twice a year for maintenance and improvements, usually around Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Those also serving on the Cemetery Committee are Diane Holmes, Patricia Holmes, Pamela Connolly, Marguerite Sabatino, David Earl, John Trainor and Michael Ingalls.

The Cemetery Committee invites you to visit and see this place of reverence located at 20 Pine Ridge Rd., Westford.

Anyone wishing to join the Cemetery Committee, either as a short-term or long-term member, may contact either Margaret (Peg) Donahue at ejdmkd@gmail.com or Mary Eve Miller at maryevewin8@outlook.com. Anyone with questions about the cemetery, about Catholic burial or about cremation in the Church may also email Margaret or Mary Eve.