

Dear Friends,

As you know, St. Anthony's and St. Mary's parishes have been chosen to form a collaborative ministry under the guidelines of the Disciples in Mission program for the Archdiocese of Boston. Just to refresh your memory, this is not a combining of our parishes. Both our parishes remain independent Canonical Parishes having their own resources, buildings and funding.

The administration of the parishes is to be combined and streamlined. There will be one Finance Council and one Parish Council made up of equal numbers from both parishes. This allows our new collaborative the ability to draw upon the rich and vibrant traditions and wisdom of both parishes.

Eventually, the office staffs will be combined to allow one point of contact for the needs of both parishes. In short, the Pastor, Pastoral Associate, Director of Religious Education, Business Manager, Secretary and Cemetery Director will be reached via one common phone number, e-mail and mail. This will not happen immediately, but it is a required goal, but one that will need careful planning and professional expertise.

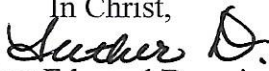
Our two parishes will share one Pastor. For the next six years, with the help of God and your support and prayers, that will be me. The official letter of appointment has been issued by the Cardinal and is in effect as of June 1, 2017.

Since we are in one sense creating a new collaborative setting, a Pastor must be formally named and installed. On Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 4PM Mass at St. Anthony's and on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at the 9:45AM Mass at St. Mary's, Bishop Hennessy, our Regional Bishop, will be with us to formally install me as your Pastor. Coincidentally, that is the weekend of Pentecost Sunday, a great day to start our new journey and adventure together. I invite you all to come to one of these installation Masses.

There is much training and discussion that will occur, but let me assure you that the camaraderie and cooperation that had marked our faith journey together over the last ten years will remain, for it is the very thing that makes a collaborative possible. We will maintain our respect for the traditions of our two parishes and hopefully, together create some new ones. We will continue to love, pray, laugh and cry together. We will solve our problems together and rejoice in our successes together. We will retain the love and pride of our home parish and hopefully extend that to our Collaborative partner.

This will be an exciting time and it is, as it has always been, my great honor, privilege and joy to be your Pastor.

May our Jesus, who walked along the road to Emmaus with the two disciples, walk with us as well. May God grant us the love, grace, imagination and friendship to accomplish our mission.

In Christ,  
  
Father Edmond Derosier, Pastor