



## The Blue Hills Collaborative

20 Como Road, Readville, MA 02136

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21 June 2019

Friends,

Fr. Charles and I arrived at the parishes of the Blue Hills Collaborative on June 3, 2014. We've been serving the people of Hyde Park, Readville, Dedham, Milton and beyond at Most Precious Blood, St. Pius X and St. Anne for over five years. Fr. Charles just celebrated his 12th Anniversary and I've observed my 46<sup>th</sup>. In the Archdiocese, we now have quite a bit of input into our parish assignments and we both chose to be the first priests to serve in our Collaborative. I believe we have been very attentive to the difficulties involved in moving from a parish affiliation to a collaborative mentality. We both chose to be present in each parish each weekend as we are very sensitive to the Mass schedules and our desire to know the parishioners in each parish and celebrate our faith together.

God has always been my motivation in ministry. My privilege as a priest is experiencing our parish members as they grow and evolve in their understanding of God. For most of those who celebrate their faith at Church, that opportunity can take place very powerfully at our weekend liturgies and through the sacraments.

I recently initiated a conversation with the Archdiocese about my readiness and willingness to move on from my ministry at the Blue Hills Collaborative. They respected my request and I will be leaving our parishes on September 15, 2019. I also volunteered to be on the Emergency Response Team (ERT) for the Archdiocese rather than take another assignment. I've been on the ERT at other times in my priesthood and it gave me the opportunity to serve temporarily in parts of the Archdiocese that I would never see otherwise. As you may know, most priests are now the only priest assigned to their parish and/or collaborative. When that priest takes vacation, gets sick, dies suddenly or is transferred, it is no longer easy to find temporary replacements. These temporary assignments can last anywhere from weeks to months and can be wherever the need arises.

Obviously, on the ERT I will live in the parish to which I am temporarily assigned. When another "emergency" occurs, I will then pack up and move on. Some priests have a hard time with change, I welcome it. Some priests are not comfortable meeting new people all the time, I look forward to all the new friends I will make. Of course, I must find a place to call home when I am in between emergency assignments so that my belongings will be settled more permanently.

*The Catholic Parishes of Most Precious Blood, Hyde Park, St. Anne, Readville, and St. Pius X, Milton*  
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Because my faith is so strong today I truly enjoy sharing my belief and learning from others' experience of God and the Church.

Being from the City of Boston, I have always felt "at home" in my ministry in and around the Greater Boston area. But there's a big Church out there and while I'm "young enough" and healthy I want to be wherever the Archdiocese needs me to be. I do believe we are all "disciples in mission".

I want to thank all our parishioners, neighbors and friends for the wonderful experience of Church that we have shared. As a priest I have felt encouraged, affirmed and loved in our community. I also thank you for challenging me and holding me accountable.

We have a wonderful staff who will continue to serve the needs of all our parishioners. We have an admiration for each other and realize how vital each member is to the mission of the Church. The respect we have among us truly enables us, as a staff, to lead by example.

The Archdiocesan Personnel Board will be setting up a meeting with the Staff, Pastoral Council and the Finance Council members to listen to the needs, dreams, and goals of the parishes in the Collaborative. They will then take that information and attempt to bring to our three parishes a faith-filled and energetic pastor to continue to lead you into the future.

I am grateful for the positive difference you have made and will continue to make in the Catholic Church. I will always speak in superlatives about our experience of being a vibrant faith community in the Blue Hills Catholic Collaborative.

May God continue to be the source and summit of all we do.

Enjoy Life!

Sincerely,

