

# A Proposal for Becoming One Parish

*Presented by the St. Anne – St. Catherine  
Pastoral, Finance and Stewardship  
Councils along with our Clergy and Staff*

**July 28, 2020**

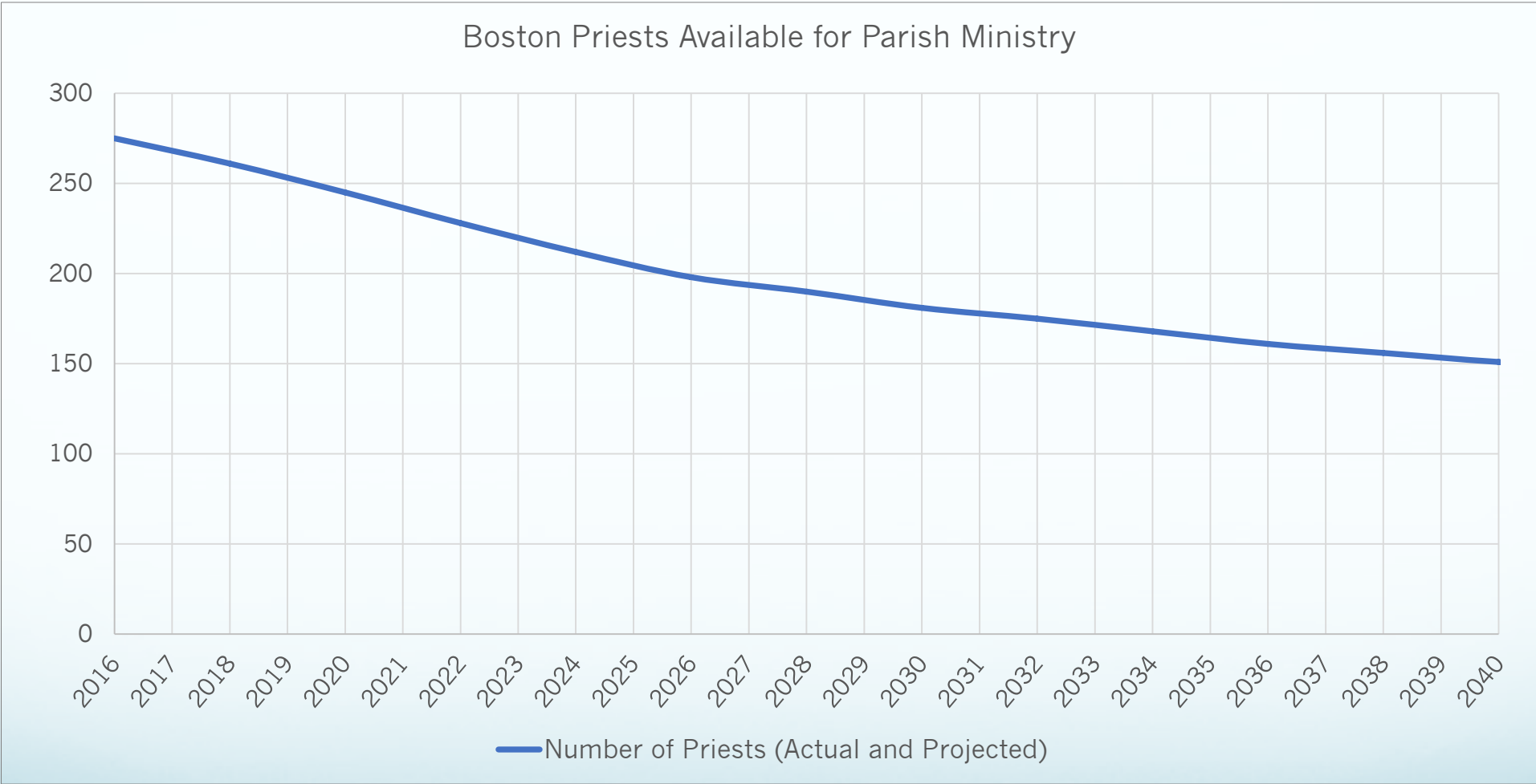


# Situation in Archdiocese of Boston and most of the US



| Before Disciples in Mission  | Beginning of Collaboratives<br>2013   | Current Situation  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining # of clergy</li> <li>• Declining Mass attendance</li> <li>• Declining revenues</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disciples in Mission begins</li> <li>• Begin forming collaboratives                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share clergy</li> <li>- Share resources (except finances)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Evangelize to increase Mass attendance</li> <li>• Promote vocations to the priesthood</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clergy shortage continuing</li> <li>Impact of COVID-19 pandemic                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Churches closed for 10+ weeks</li> <li>• Greatly reduced weekly offertory</li> <li>• Approx. 2/3rds of parishes in financial difficulty</li> <li>• Archdiocese encouraging parishes to consider merging</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

# Archdiocese of Boston Data



# Before Collaboration



## St. Anne Parish

Clergy  
Staff  
Finance Council  
Pastoral Council  
Database  
Faith Formation  
Ministries  
Parishioners  
Buildings  
Finances

**All  
Separate**



## St. Catherine Parish

Clergy  
Staff  
Finance Council  
Pastoral Council  
Database  
Faith Formation  
Ministries  
Parishioners  
Buildings  
Finances

# During Collaboration

*June 2014 to present*



## St. Anne – St. Catherine Faith Community



### Shared

Clergy  
 Most staff  
 Mass schedule  
 Faith Formation  
 Pastoral & Stewardship Councils  
 Facilities  
 Most Ministries

### Separate

Legal status  
 Revenues  
 Finance Council  
 Database

Legal status  
 Revenues  
 Finance Council  
 Database

# Where Are We Now?



- We have developed a good relationship
- Our level of trust has grown over the years
- We are benefiting from synergies
- Although we have been fortunate to retain our clergy, the future is uncertain
- We need to prepare for the future by eliminating inefficiencies
  - Duplicate databases
  - Duplicate finances



# Where Do We Go From Here?

We would like to present a  
proposal to become  
**One Parish**  
with two churches,  
and we invite your feedback

# What Will Change if We Become One Parish?





- New legal status
- Assets and liabilities will be pooled, we'll be able to share our income, as well as our expenses
- 2 Databases will be merged
- 2 Finance Councils will be combined into one
- Obstacles that prevent us from proceeding as one will be removed



# What Will Stay the Same if We Become One Parish?



- Same worship sites: St. Anne  + St. Catherine 
- Eventual return to pre-pandemic Mass schedule
- Same clergy
- Same staff
- Same Faith Formation program
- Same ministries

# How Does Becoming One Parish Benefit Us?



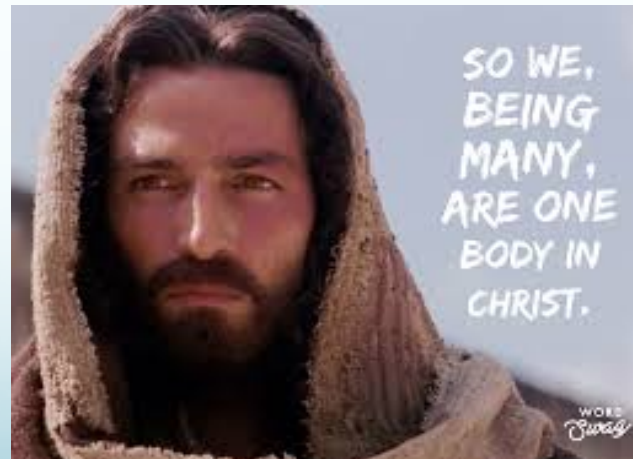
- Unity
- Long term commitment
- Improved effectiveness
- Reduced stress on priests and staff
- Synergies
- Better positioned for the future

# Why Become One Parish?

## Unity



- Jesus taught us to unite as one body
- Emotionally and spiritually we are better off as one
- Uniting as one parish removes any barriers to seeing ourselves as one



# Why Become One Parish? Commitment



Just as a couple who has been dating decide to get married, we want to make a **long term commitment** to strengthen us for the future



# Why Become One Parish?

## Improved Effectiveness



- Combined finances allow us to leverage and retain our resources
- One parish name allows effective and consistent communications (bulletin, website, social media)
- Combining databases and finances eliminates duplication of effort, reduces frustration, saves time and money, improves transparency
- Best practices can be leveraged for all

# Why Become One Parish? Reduces Stress on Priests



- Fewer meetings to attend
- Fewer councils and committees to manage
- Pooled income and expenses



# Why Become One Parish?

## Benefits of Synergies



- More flexible resource management
- Vitality and viability apparent to archdiocese and community
- Surrounding communities attracted to our Faith Community → increasing membership
- Increased engagement and stewardship
- Increase in reception of sacraments

### What is synergy?

*Synergy occurs when two or more organizations interact or cooperate to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.*

# Why Become One Parish?

## Better Positioned for the Future



- Unified vision, image and approach to evangelization supported by unified resources
- Better able to attract worshippers and ministry members and to retain high quality clergy and staff
- Creates a foundation for increased evangelization and future growth
- Maximizes our ability to chart our own course for the future.



# Additional Resources:

- Review the Frequently Asked Questions available on the websites
- Send feedback via email: [Feedback@LWCatholic.org](mailto:Feedback@LWCatholic.org)
- Send feedback via mail to the parish offices

