

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm praying that we've not seen the end of sunshine and warmth even if the sunsets just a little earlier and darkness descends a little sooner each day. But there's no doubting that summer's on the wane and the fall is ahead of us. Since many were away this summer I'd like to use this end-of-summer bulletin to catch us all up on what's been happening.

- Early in the summer, Andrew Genovese, our religious education director, left Holy Family and took a similar position in the collaborative of St. Ann and St. Brendan Parishes in Dorchester. I'm grateful for Andrew's work over the past year and join you in wishing him success in his new job.

We were blessed, indeed, to find without delay a new religious education person for our staff: Jaye Russo. Jaye lives in Billerica and most recently worked at St. Catherine Parish in Westford. She comes to us with a bright and inviting spirit and with years of experience in faith formation! Welcome to Holy Family Parish, Jaye!

We've made some changes in the class schedule for religious education with the program beginning a little later in the season than had previously been planned. You have received information about this and if you have yet to register for the program, you'll receive the updated info when you do.

- As you know, we've discussed the stewardship of our parish properties since Holy Family was established in 2004 and finally came to a decision to sell the office building at 55 Church Street and to use the proceeds of that sale to re-purpose the rectory building in Monument Square as the parish offices. This summer we sold 55 Church Street to the Town of Concord for \$1,060,000. In August the parish offices were relocated to the lower level of the church where we have installed a "cubicle city" which takes up a little more than half of the larger downstairs space (the café remains as before). All parish business will now be transacted on the lower level of the church. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may enter from the parking lot (once inside, take the lift downstairs or turn left before entering the sanctuary and take the stairs to the lower level, passing through the café. You may also enter from Monument Square through the doors on the right under the church steps. While the parish phone number remains the same (978-369-7442), please note that our **mailing address has changed!** All mail should be addressed to

**Holy Family Parish  
P.O. Box 220  
Concord, MA 01742**

- Having the parish offices on the lower level has presented some safety and security concerns and so I've had 3 new locks installed on the entrances to this space (on the door between the hall and the men's room, on the door between the café and the hall and on the door at the foot of the stairs leading up to the front doors of the church). I know that the interior stairs from the church front doors down to the hall are a route some use during weekend masses to reach the rest rooms on the lower level. That route now takes you through our new "cubicle city" and the parish offices. If you use this route, please respect the office space and its contents. I'm particularly concerned here about children who leave Mass to use the rest rooms and my concern is two-fold. First, as you know, it's not wise in any situation to send young children off on their own. Parents wouldn't do this in other venues and shouldn't do it at church either. We've never had a problem in this area but neither do we ever want to have on in the future. ***If your young child needs to use the rest room during mass, please accompany him/her to and from that destination.*** That would also answer my second concern: if accompanied by an adult I'm confident that children will not go "exploring" the parish offices while on a bathroom break! Thanks for your assistance in this regard.

- I mentioned above a “collaborative” of parishes. As you’ll recall from previous letters, the archdiocese is in a process of bringing parishes together in collaboratives in which 2 or 3 parishes are served by one pastor and one parish staff. In this arrangement the parishes involved maintain their individual integrity - it’s the relationship to pastor and staff that changes. This process is in its 5th year of phasing in collaboratives. Up until now, each new set of collaboratives has been announced in September with an effective date of the following June. This summer, however, the rest of the calendar of collaboratives was published and Holy Family Parish and St. Irene Parish will be in Phase 7, which means that in June of 2019 those two parishes will be served by one pastor and one parish staff. When parishes go into collaborative the sitting pastors are asked to offer a voluntary resignation to clear the deck for the appointment of a new pastor for the collaborative. Having submitted those letters, however, any of the sitting pastors could apply to be appointed as the collaborative’s pastor. So in September 2018 both Fr. Donohoe of St. Irene’s and I will submit those letters, effective June 2019. At that time Fr. Donohoe will be 92 and I will be 72 and neither of us will be applying for the pastorate of the collaborative. (Unlike Fr. Donohoe, I hope to retire at 75 (!) and so after leaving Holy Family in 2019, I will assist in another parish until my retirement.)

- It’s been a busy summer! Please, let’s all be patient with one another as we adjust to all these changes!

Sincerely,  
Fr. Fleming