



Statement of the Archdiocese of Boston Regarding Parishes of Charlestown

(Brighton, MA) October 31, 2004 - The Archbishop of Boston announced today the assignment of Rev. James Ronan as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Charlestown. The Archbishop also indicated that it is his intention that Fr. Ronan will also be appointed as pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish and St. Francis de Sales Parish, both in Charlestown, over the next year. It is also announced that Rev. Daniel Mahoney, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, will work with Fr. Ronan over the next year to assist with this process.

Archbishop O'Malley has asked Fr. Ronan to work with these parish communities, so that over the next two years, the three parishes of Charlestown are combined into one new parish. "It is my hope that the Catholic community in Charlestown will unite in working with Fr. Ronan" said Archbishop Sean. "I know he will build on the work already done by the parishioners and Frs. Bowers, Coughlin and Mahoney in determining how the resources of the Archdiocese are best utilized in Charlestown," he continued. Among the matters the parish communities will need to explore is which facilities will be incorporated into the one new parish. Presently there are three Catholic parishes in Charlestown within one square mile serving a decreased and ethnically diverse population.

Fr. Ronan was ordained for the Archdiocese of Boston in 1982. He served the Church in Ecuador as member of the Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle from 1988 to 1994 and in 1994 was appointed the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Executive Director of the Secretariat for the Church in Latin America. Fr. Ronan's work in Hispanic ministry will be valuable in coordinating pastoral outreach to the Spanish-speaking people of Charlestown. Fr. Ronan, a licensed psychologist, completed a masters degree in counseling and psychology and a doctorate in higher education at Boston College. Archbishop Sean concluded, "I am grateful to Fr. Ronan for accepting this challenging assignment. His pastoral, professional and academic experience will be of great help in responding to the needs of the people of this part of our Archdiocese.

Copyright © 2004-2006 Archdiocese of Boston; all rights reserved