



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Making the South Shore a Better Place



Catholic Weymouth Collaborative collects household goods for Father Bill's Homeless to Home project during Lent.

CATHOLIC WEYMOUTH COLLABORATIVE Two Parishes, One Mission

Immaculate Conception Parish became a Collaborative of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston 10 years ago. Catholic Weymouth Collaborative is a partnership between Immaculate Conception in East Weymouth and Saint Jerome in North Weymouth.

"We are two parishes with a common mission to serve Our Lord, one another, and those beyond our community in the name of Jesus Christ. Immaculate Conception has been a parish of the Archdiocese of Boston for over 150 years while St. Jerome is approaching its 100th anniversary," said Mary Ellen Cassani,

Director of Pastoral Ministries at the Catholic Weymouth Collaborative.

In 2013, Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Jerome Parish became a Collaborative and Fr. Joe Rossi served as pastor for the first year of the Collaborative. In 2014, Fr. John Currie became the pastor until 2016 when the Most Rev. John A. Doohar was named pastor. For the past four years, Fr. Huy Nguyen has been the Pastor and Spiritual leader. He was ordained in 2009 after graduating from St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts. Prior to

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QUINCY ROTARY CLUB

100 Years of Service



Members of Quincy Rotary and their spouses who visited Thailand in January.

TO HELP OUT

If interested in learning more or joining the Quincy Rotary, visit their website or come to a weekly meeting.

Quincy Rotary meets:

- First Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM
- All Other Tuesdays at 12:15 PM

THE COMMON MARKET
97 Willard Street
Quincy, MA



Quincy Rotary was founded in 1923 and will be celebrating their 100th anniversary this October. For a century, the Quincy Rotary has been at the forefront of community service in Quincy and around the world.

Rotary Club is a global service organization. The Rotary motto is "Service Above Self," and the organization has over 33,000 local clubs serving their communities. The Quincy chapter is part of a district including all of Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts.

Currently, there are over 60 members in the Quincy chapter, ages 18 and up, coming from all different backgrounds and professions, including former teachers, retired lawyers, realtors, and more. Quincy Rotary meets weekly for lunch on Tuesdays at The Common Market on Willard Street, except for the first Tuesday of the

month, which meets at 5:30 pm. Meetings often feature engaging speakers, such as the Mayor of Quincy and local authors. Members discuss ways of improving people's lives, locally and globally.

According to Walter Hubley, Quincy Rotary President, club members work on at least 12 service projects per year. Projects include stocking shelves at the local food pantry; clothing drives for gloves, mittens, and hats for Quincy students in need; the Annual Senior Spaghetti Luncheon at the Kennedy Center; and a literacy project at the Quincy Public Schools, including free books. In response to the Turkey-Syria earthquakes in 2023, Quincy Rotary teamed up with the Woodward School to collect blankets and sleeping bags for people displaced by the disaster.

In January, club members visited Thailand to see first-hand the organizations that the Quincy Rotary supports, such as Friends of Thai Daughters and a Sunflower Thrivable Farm. Members who took the journey included Patrick McDermott, Tracy Wilson, Jeff Laforest, Kathryn Hubley, Walter Hubley and trip organizers Dolly DiPesa and Margaret Laforest.

Quincy Rotary annually offers \$1,000 scholarships to 30 students from Quincy City High School and North Quincy High School to help graduates in their first year of college. ■

KIWANIS CLUB Restarted in Weymouth

Kiwanis Club helps kids around the world. “Kiwanis is an international organization of local clubs dedicated to service, primarily serving children,” said Will Bradford, Secretary, Kiwanis Club of Weymouth.

Bradford restarted the Kiwanis Club in Weymouth last year after the previous club folded several years ago. The new chapter is primarily focused on performing community service rather than holding meetings. This strategy allows for busy people who want to serve their community but have limited time for volunteering.

“One of the best things that Kiwanis does around the country and around the world is supporting our youth clubs. Kiwanis sponsors Key Club in High School and Circle K Club in college,” said Bradford. Growing up in Connecticut, Bradford participated in Key Clubs during high school. “It taught me a lot of important life skills that I use more today than calculus, chemistry, or anything else that I learned in high school.”

Bradford continued with Circle K Club in college. When he graduated, he was recruited to work with Key Club regionally to support the New England District organization. He joined Kiwanis and moved to Weymouth in 2021. It was then that he decided to restart Kiwanis in his new town.

Community Service

The main focus of the club is a program in conjunction with the Weymouth Food Pantry called A Simple Gesture. Approximately 100 people, mostly from Weymouth but also Braintree and Hingham, are

monthly donors. “Each month, we give them a reusable shopping bag and a wish list from the food pantry. Throughout the month, they buy things off the wish list,” said Bradford. Some people fill the entire wish list—others buy a few items.

On the second Sunday of each month, club members pick up the filled bags off of donors’ porches and drop off a new bag with a new wish list for the coming month. “We’ve been able to donate about 1,000 pounds of groceries to the food pantry every month,” said Bradford.

To become A Simple Gesture donor, find the sign-up sheet at weymouthkiwanis.org

Another important program is the Annual Bicycle Safety Rodeo. This past spring, they gave 75 bicycle helmets to local kids, and they provided helmet fitting for all participants. Representatives of The Bicycle Link in Weymouth Landing performed safety inspections. The club also ran an obstacle course for kids to learn the rules of the road when biking. The club plans to continue with this program each June to make sure kids have the proper safety equipment before summer vacation begins. ■

GET INVOLVED

The Kiwanis Club meets once a month on the second Wednesday of the month at Tufts Library at 6pm, and anyone can attend to learn more. You can also visit the [Weymouth Kiwanis website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.



The Kiwanis Club of Weymouth handed out 75 bicycle helmets to kids during their Annual Bicycle Safety Rodeo.

HINGHAM WOMEN'S CLUB Adopts a Stretch of Route 3A



A portion of the Hingham Women's Club clean-up crew of their section of adopted highway on Route 3A. Pictured left to right: Jeneé Melgoza, Christine Andrews, Sherri Hamm, Jennifer Sherman, and Coen Melgoza. Photo by Liana Melgoza, also part of the clean-up crew.

TO GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in learning more about the Hingham Women's Club, you can visit their website and social media accounts, such as Facebook.

“We're always looking for new members, women over the age of 21,” said Andrews. “It's a great networking environment besides being service oriented. I highly recommend anyone check it out. It's an amazing group of women.”

The Hingham Women's Club, a nonprofit organization, serves the Hingham and South Shore communities by providing charitable giving, community service, and social opportunities for its members. The current organization was officially founded in 1940 as The Mother's Club, an offshoot of the original Hingham Women's Club founded in 1921.

Their focus has always been charitable giving through in-kind donations, monetary donations, or direct community service. Social opportunities are sprinkled in with the charitable activities, but even their social events have a philanthropic aspect.

The Hingham Women's Club focus areas include women and youth;

homelessness and housing; seniors; and women's rights and health advocacy. Each year, they provide three \$2000 scholarships for high school seniors in Hingham.

“We also added in environmental volunteer opportunities this past year,” said Christine Andrews, President. The group recently adopted a two-mile section of Route 3A in Hingham from Otis Street to the courthouse. Community members aged 11 years and older are welcome to help in monthly clean-up sessions, weather permitting. If interested in volunteering, please RSVP via the Women's Club website under “Go Green” committee events or email info@hinghamwomensclub.org.

Seasonal Events

The Hingham Women's Club also hosts events at the Hingham Senior Center, including a Thanksgiving luncheon and a spring tea. Community members can donate food supplies to support these events.

The Bunny Breakfast is held in conjunction with the Town of Hingham during the town-wide Easter Egg Hunt. The club provides a light brunch plus a meet-and-greet with the Easter Bunny prior to the egg hunt.

During the Holly Jolly Hingham weekend each year, the club holds the Festival of Trees on the first Friday night in December. The event includes donated goods and services to raise scholarship funds, Hingham Rec's Summer Camp Fund and the South Shore Friends of the Homeless. The club donated \$15,000 to the Friends of the Homeless last year. ■

Saying Goodbye with Livestream Services and Memorial Videos

Advances in technology have allowed Keohane to offer our families the option of live streaming funeral services. This enables loved ones from out of town, the homebound, and the elderly to feel like they were part of the service, even from a distance. They can choose to participate either during the live services of a loved one or review a recording of the funeral service on our website.

Live streamed videos are viewed on our website until the event is over. If the family wishes, the recording of the service can be kept on our website either for a limited time or permanently. It is up to each family if they choose to make these recordings public or private.

“During the pandemic, we offered live streaming to each family as an option to bring families together. Post-pandemic, we still explain to families that it is an option, but we are finding it only makes sense for certain families,” said Co-President John Keohane. “We have a camera in each of our buildings that can live stream any event inside the funeral home. Some churches provide live-streaming on their own, while others do not. We also have a portable camera to bring to churches and events outside of our funeral home.”



A memorial video slideshow is a fitting tribute to a life well lived.

Memorial Video Slideshows

Memorial video slide shows are a wonderful way to pay tribute to the lives of our loved ones. The videos can be viewed during a visitation or during the funeral service.

To make a memorial video, families either provide photos for us to scan, or we can provide a link for uploading their digital photos. We then create a draft of the video and share with the family. When approved, we add the video to our website as well as each TV in our building.

“Given the younger generations’ comfort with technology, it makes sense to incorporate many different ideas so the entire family finds comfort in what was selected,” said John. ■

KEOHANE ANNUAL COAT DRIVE RETURNS

Donations Gratefully Accepted October 1 to November 30

While our Annual Coat Drive was on hiatus during the pandemic, we’re once again collecting new and gently used coats for those in need! It’s a great opportunity to clean out your closet and help others. So, take a look—you may have gently worn coats in your closets that will be appreciated by those less fortunate when the temperatures drop.

Donations will be cleaned and distributed to those in need on the South Shore through the Wellspring Multi-Service Center in Hull, Interfaith Social Services in Quincy, and Weymouth Youth and Family Services in Weymouth.

“Many of us have gently worn coats in our closets that can be better utilized by those less fortunate than ourselves. We are always amazed by the generosity of those in our community who help us make our Coat Collection such a huge success,” said Co-President John Keohane.

The effort began in 2012 when Keohane exceeded their initial goal of collecting 250 coats. Due to the incredible success of the event, Keohane instituted an annual drive until 2020. We are excited to restart our annual effort and encourage you to bring your donations to these Keohane locations through October and November:

KEOHANE FUNERAL HOME
785 Hancock Street, Quincy

PYNE KEOHANE FUNERAL HOME
21 Emerald Street, Hingham

MCDONALD KEOHANE FUNERAL HOME
809 Main Street, Weymouth



Small changes in daily fitness routines can lead to healthy habits.

HEALTHY BALANCE

Employee Health and Wellness

Keothane began a health and wellness program in January for our staff. We partnered with A Healthy Balance, a boutique studio that offers customized health and wellness programs in Quincy. A Healthy Balance held seminars for employees to help set goals and work towards them, such as walking more.

“They designed a program for our team called habit stacking. The goal was to educate us on how small changes can lead to new habits that create great outcomes,” said Co-President John Keothane.

Initially, employees had to increase their daily fitness activities by 15 minutes. The next lesson was on nutrition and how to look at food in a very different way.

“It was interesting to watch how our team really took to the information so they could begin to make some educated decisions around their own health,” said John. ■

Catholic Weymouth Collaborative: Two Parishes; One Mission

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entering the seminary, Fr. Nguyen obtained a degree in engineering from UMass Amherst.

Each parish has its own Sunday Mass schedule which complements the other parish. However, both parishes share office staff and most programs run as one, in particular, Religious Formation for youth and adults, Youth Ministry, and social events.

Church Programs

The collaborative provides rosary prayer groups, Women’s Spirituality, Ministry to the Homebound, Bible Study, Book Club, and many others.

Social events alternate between parishes year to year. Some of these

events include the St. Patrick’s dance and Italian Night along with Musical Bingo and Trunk-or-Treat at Halloween.

“Every month, we try to provide a social event to allow members of both parishes to be together and become friends,” said Cassani.

For over 30 years, St. Jerome has supported Father Bill’s Homeless Shelter in Quincy with their monthly meal as well as running drives throughout the year to support their clients transitioning to homes. Since becoming a Collaborative, Immaculate Conception has enthusiastically joined in this important work.

During Lent, both parishes participate in Fr. Bill’s Homeless to Home program, a Lenten Opportunities Project. For the past several years, church members have donated

household goods to the project. Molisse Realty donates the delivery of goods to Father Bill’s Brockton shelter, where items are dispersed to those in need.

Both parishes have active St. Vincent de Paul Conferences that assist anyone experiencing crises in their home life regarding rent, fuel assistance, and payment of utilities along with providing emergency food supplies.

The collaborative also runs basketball programs for grades K-6, including a summer basketball clinic. Their new Youth Minister, Ms. Dina Patryn, is a graduate of Franciscan University at Steubenville, Ohio. She plans to start a Vacation Bible School.

For more information, visit the Catholic Weymouth Collaborative website at <https://catholicweymouth.org> ■



Tyler Molisse is an Apprentice Funeral Director at Keohane Funeral Home.

“In working with grieving families, it is important to remember that each family is unique, and each death is unique,” said Tyler.

TYLER MOLISSE

Tyler Molisse, an Apprentice Funeral Director at Keohane Funeral Home, has always had an interest in helping others and in being of service to families in their hour of need. Tyler was pursuing studies to become a Catholic priest, but when his professional plans changed, funeral service seemed the most natural and logical choice for a career.

“Tyler has an engaging personality and a wonderful sense of humor. I know his Dad and he was talking to me at a Chamber of Commerce meeting and explaining how Tyler was in the seminary. A few months later, Tyler called to see if we had a place for him as he loves being of service and felt that a career in funeral service was closely related to his passion for helping people in his religious life,” said John Keohane, Co-President. “Tyler is a tireless worker and is always willing to help the entire team. He has a style of his own and he is a pleasure to work with.”

Tyler’s responsibilities as an apprentice are wide-ranging and change daily based on the needs of the funeral home and the families whom Keohane serves. On any given day, Tyler may be assisting with administrative tasks, answering the phones, preparing for wakes and funerals, or assisting with the care of the deceased. Tyler frequently assists grieving families as well.

“In working with grieving families, it is important to remember that each family is unique, and each death is unique. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to treat each situation as singular and meet the families wherever they happen to be in their grief,” said Tyler.

Tyler graduated from Boston College High School in the class of 2015. Afterwards, he spent six years studying for the Catholic priesthood as a member of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. Four of those years were spent in Europe—three in Italy and one in Germany.

In his free time, Tyler enjoys tailoring, calligraphy, and bookbinding. He is an avid golfer and continues to be involved in the Catholic Church in various capacities, most notably in the movement to propagate the Traditional Latin Mass. ■

How Can I Show More Compassion and Empathy For a Bereaved Person?

Showing compassion and empathy to a bereaved person is a deeply meaningful gesture that can provide solace and support during a difficult time. But sometimes it's hard to know what to do or what to say when you see someone at the funeral, at church, at the grocery store, or even online.

"I find that simple and genuine is the way to go," said Apprentice Funeral Director Frank Maggiore.

Frank suggests saying something like: "I'm so sorry to hear about your mother/husband/grandparent. If there's anything I can do, please let me know." You can also say something kind about the deceased or share a happy memory of the loved one.

It's important to avoid clichés or platitudes. Well-intentioned, generic phrases like "time heals all wounds" may unintentionally minimize the bereaved person's pain.

Instead, offer heartfelt condolences and assure them of your continued support.

If it feels right for you, offer practical assistance. Grief can be overwhelming, and daily tasks may become burdensome. You can offer specific help, such as cooking a meal, running errands, or assisting with funeral arrangements, to alleviate some of the person's responsibilities.

After your initial conversation, check in on them periodically, even after the initial shock has subsided. Grief can be a long-lasting process, and ongoing support is invaluable.

Remember, the key is to demonstrate genuine care and understanding. Your willingness to support the bereaved person through their grief can make a profound difference in their healing journey. ■



To demonstrate genuine care and understanding, offer your heartfelt condolences and assure the bereaved of your continued support.

**WHY DO I NEED A
DEATH CERTIFICATE
AND HOW DO I
GET ONE?**

Read more on
our Blog:

