Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint John Chrysostom: April 18, 2015

As I write this letter, I am experiencing the very familiar “good news, bad news” effect; although, from my perspective, the second part is not “bad” but rather “sad” news.

I will share the good news first. His Eminence, Cardinal Sean, has appointed Father John R. Carroll, now serving as Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart and Saint Brigid Parishes in Lexington, as the new Administrator here at Saint John Chrysostom, effective June, 2, 2015. Father John, ordained in 1981, is an outstanding priest whom I first came to know when he ministered to my own father in his dying days at the Beth Israel Hospital nearly twenty years ago. Since that time, I have continued to be impressed by Father John’s faith-filled, kind and caring pastoral presence and his commitment and dedication to God and His People. I truly believe that Father John’s appointment as Administrator is a gift from God and a true blessing for the Parish Family of Saint John Chrysostom. I am confident that Father John will be a tremendous fit for the parish, and that this parish will be an equally tremendous fit for him as he shares the gifts of his priesthood.

In order to share the good news of Father John’s appointment, I have to simultaneously share the news of my departure from the parish. In October, I responded to a request from the Priest Personnel Office of the Archdiocese seeking priests who would be willing to serve as parochial vicars in parishes going into active collaboration. After indicating my willingness to be so considered, a series of conversations took place that led to Cardinal Sean’s decision to accept my resignation as Administrator of Saint John Chrysostom, also effective June 2, 2015. After a period of rest, prayer and renewal, I look forward to accepting another assignment from the Cardinal.

The year and nine months of my assignment here at Saint John have proved to be a brief, but wonderful period of my priesthood. From the moment of my introduction to the parish community at a Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:00 pm on the last weekend of August, 2013 and continuing right into the joyful Easter celebrations in which we are now engaged, I have been moved, inspired and edified by the wonderful way in which this Parish worships and lives out its mission to make the Word and the Way, the Light and the Life, and the Faith, Hope and Love that is ours, in Christ Jesus, Risen from the dead, so powerfully present in our neighborhoods of West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Roslindale, Dedham, and beyond. This warm and welcoming community of faith has had an impressive past, a vibrant present and a promising future. I thank each of you as individuals, and all of you together as a Parish Family, for the privilege and pleasure that has been mine in being blessed to serve as your Parish Priest. I am truly grateful for the many ways in which you have allowed me to walk with you on your journeys of faith and for all that you have shared with me that have made me both a better person and a better priest. I also want to apologize, humbly and sincerely, for any actions, inactions or words that may have unintentionally caused any of you any offense or upset. While it saddens me to leave this wonderful parish, I trust in God’s will and providence, as I look forward with hope and anticipation to the next assignment that awaits me.

I would be remiss if I did not thank, Sister Maureen, Father Charlie, Father Paul, Deacon Brian and the entire staff of our Parish for their hard work and zealous pastoral ministry. The fact that these good and holy folks remain a part of the parish family is a considerable consolation to me as I prepare to bid you farewell.

With gratitude for your kind attention to this letter, and for all that you do to bring Christ to Life here at Saint John Chrysostom Parish, and asking God, through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Mother of Our Risen Lord, to bless you with the abundant gifts and graces of this Easter Season, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend John J. Connolly, Jr., Administrator