



Archdiocese of Boston

**Media Summary Articles Behind Paywalls  
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*Note: wherever helpful, we **highlight** references to the Archdiocese, the Cardinal and other affiliated organizations.*

**Boston Globe: Cardinal O'Malley appoints new leader to oversee Boston Archdiocese philanthropy efforts**

By Travis Andersen  
August 16, 2021

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston is getting a new head of philanthropy next month who hails from the Emerald Isle and who's raised more than \$1 billion for various nonprofits during his stellar professional career, officials said.

In a statement, the archdiocese said Cardinal Seán O'Malley appointed Gavan P. Mooney to assume the role of chief philanthropy officer on Sept. 7.

Mooney, the statement said, comes to the archdiocese from Changing Our World, a nonprofit and philanthropic consulting firm.

Since 2002, Mooney's managed a "diverse portfolio" at the firm, helping to advise and build foundations and raising more than \$1 billion across organizations over the course of his career, the statement said.

"Gavan Mooney is an experienced and widely respected leader in Catholic and nonprofit philanthropy," Cardinal O'Malley said in the statement. "He knows the Archdiocese of Boston well and brings a unique perspective and proven track record to his new role. We look forward to Gavan building on the Archdiocese's well established development efforts as we respond to the needs of our communities today and plan for their growth in the future."

Mooney, a native of Ireland, was also quoted in the statement, voicing excitement for what lies ahead.

"Now, more than ever, our parishes, schools, human service programs and support networks will play a critical role in serving those most in need across the Archdiocese," Mooney said. "I want to thank Cardinal Seán for this wonderful opportunity and I look forward to working with our priests, religious and volunteer leadership, staff, and generous parishioners to raise important resources for our faithful community."

Separately, O'Malley thanked Patricia Kelleher Bartram for serving as interim secretary for institutional advancement since early 2020. Bartram, who previously led Boston Catholic Development Services, which drives the fundraising arm of the archdiocese, will conclude her service to the archdiocese on Oct. 1, the statement said.

“Pat Bartram has done an outstanding job in securing financial support for our parishes and pastoral agencies,” O'Malley said. “Facing the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, she successfully led her team in securing funding for our programs and services at a time of greatly increased requests for assistance. Her leadership of the Inspiring Hope capital campaign and the Catholic Appeal established a strong foundation for our ministries and outreach to the many communities we serve. I am personally grateful to Pat for her commitment to the work of the Church as we wish her the best in all her endeavors going forward.”

## **Cardinal O'Malley offers prayers for Haiti earthquake victims**

By Travis Andersen

August 16, 2021

Cardinal Seán O'Malley on Monday took to Twitter to offer prayers for the victims of Saturday's magnitude 7.2 earthquake that devastated Haiti, killing over 1,200 people and displacing and injuring thousands more.

"The people of Haiti are in our prayers today following the deadly earthquake," O'Malley tweeted at 11:39 a.m. Monday. "The loss of life and the suffering is great. We join in solidarity with the Haitian community in the Archdiocese of Boston praying for their loved ones in Haiti."

The leader of the Boston Archdiocese also asked his flock to pray for his counterpart in Haiti, Cardinal Chibly Langlois, who was injured in the earthquake, according to a report Monday from the Catholic News Agency.

Akim Kikonda, director for Catholic Relief Services in Haiti, said Langlois "is hurt, but his life is not in danger," the News Agency reported Monday.

"Please keep Cardinal Chibly Langlois in your prayers," O'Malley tweeted. "He had recently been my guest in Boston before returning to Haiti. We pray for his well-being and for all the Haitian people."

The quake centered about 78 miles west of the capital of Port-au-Prince nearly razed some towns and triggered landslides that hampered rescue efforts in a country that is the poorest in the Western Hemisphere.

It already was struggling with the worsening poverty, the coronavirus pandemic, the political uncertainty following the July 7 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and a wave of gang violence.

Saturday's earthquake brought terrible reminders of the one that hit Haiti on Jan. 12, 2010, at a magnitude of 7.0. The Haitian government estimated about 222,570 people died then, though some estimates put the death toll at more than 300,000.

O'Malley had visited Haiti in 2010 to view the relief efforts following that earlier disaster and to "bring the love and concern of the people of Boston," which has a large Haitian population, O'Malley's office said at the time.

Terry Donilon, a spokesman for the Boston archdiocese, said via e-mail Monday that local parishes are involved in the current relief effort as Haiti works to recover from the weekend earthquake.

Donilon wrote that the archdiocese "and its parishes are working closely with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) which is US Bishops official overseas relief and development agency. CRS has

staff in the impacted area and is working with its local counterparts. Rescue and recovery efforts are the current priority. CRS is assessing the short and long term needs for the hardest hit areas.”

## **Archdiocese of Boston schools faces backlash after issuing restrictions on mandating masks for vaccinated people**

*But if a local health board requires them indoors, schools should comply, superintendent*

*Thomas W. Carroll says*

By Felicia Gans

August 19, 2021

Parents are pushing back against an Archdiocese of Boston mandate that restricts local Catholic schools from requiring vaccinated students or staff members to wear masks.

With just weeks prior to the launch of school, Thomas W. Carroll, superintendent of Catholic schools for the archdiocese, is coming under fire over his decision.

The choice to restrict universal mask mandates is “utterly baffling, reckless, and negligent based upon what public health experts are telling us today,” said Diane Nealon, whose 8-year-old son attends Blessed Sacrament School in Walpole.

Nealon would prefer that Carroll not only drop the ban but require masks for everyone in Catholic schools. She also wants them to continue following other protocols, such as distancing between desks and cracked windows for ventilation.

“They did such a good job last year,” she said. “They need to continue to provide safe, supportive places for learning.”

In a guidance first published in May and updated earlier this month, the Catholic Schools Office said that anyone who wants to wear a mask should be supported in their decision, but “no vaccinated student, teacher, or staff member should be mandated to wear a mask indoors.” The only exceptions are for specific areas such as nurse’s offices or when students are working in “very close contact.”

For unvaccinated students, schools are given the choice to either allow families to decide whether to mask children, require students to wear masks in classrooms with immunocompromised students or teachers, or require all unvaccinated students to mask up. Schools have been asked to create their policy for unvaccinated children by considering the level of vaccination within the school, age, demographics, historic COVID-19 caseload, and input from parents and staff members.

Schools also can require masks for everyone if their local board of health requires it, Carroll told the Globe.

“If there’s any order from the state or a local health board, all of our schools have been advised to instantly comply,” he said.

For example, due to a federal order, masks will be required for anyone on school buses.

The guidance cites the school recommendations released by Massachusetts’ education and public health agencies, which strongly recommend all unvaccinated students and staff members wear masks, but do not explicitly recommend masks for vaccinated students.

Governor Charlie Baker, however, has criticized governors who have banned local authorities from mandating masks for everyone. Despite pressure to create a universal mask mandate for schools, Baker has repeatedly defended his choice to give local officials the authority.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics both have recommended schools require masks indoors for everyone, regardless of vaccination status — a position teachers unions, medical groups, and many parents have implored Baker to take.

Carroll said he simply didn't see enough evidence to justify letting schools mandate masks for vaccinated students or staff. However, he emphasized, he and his team are tracking the data closely and are willing to change their policy if the situation changes.

"If it turns out that the hospitalizations go up dramatically or we start seeing spread within our schools or something else, then we'll reconsider the position," he said.

"I'm not into the mask wars," he added. "I'm not into the vaccination wars. We're trying to do what we think is best given the conflicting guidance we have from state and federal authorities."

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston includes about 100 schools in the region, but Carroll only has operational control over 69 of them. Many begin their academic year shortly after Labor Day.

For Michelle Miller, whose two sons also attend Bless Sacrament, the rules on universal masking has led her to even consider other schooling options for the coming academic year.

"It feels very anxiety-ridden given that we're two weeks away from the start of school," she said. "Given that so many children aren't yet eligible for vaccinations, it seems like a no-brainer that we should require masks until that's an option."

Keri Rodrigues, founder of Massachusetts Parents United and the mother of two Catholic school students, said a group of 50 to 75 parents has been meeting regularly to push for mask mandates in their individual communities and districts. Rodrigues, who also has two other children in non-Catholic district schools, hopes Baker will issue a public health order on universal mask-wearing that would force Carroll's hand.

Saint Theresa of The Child Jesus School in Somerville, where her incoming fourth and third graders attend, sent a notice to families this week stating that masking will be required for unvaccinated students but optional for vaccinated ones, she said.

"Frankly, this has been the whole problem during the pandemic," she said. "These folks are left to kind of figure these things out on their own. Carroll is not an epidemiologist for crying out loud."

Neither are Baker or Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley, she pointed out. But the buck has to end with someone, she said.

“Until the governor makes this a public health issue,” she said, “the schools and frankly the diocese are doing what they can, what they want to.”