



ST. ANNE - ST. CATHERINE COLLABORATIVE LOCAL PASTORAL PLAN



MAY 31, 2016

ST. ANNE - ST. CATHERINE COLLABORATIVE

75 King St. Littleton, MA 01460 / 107 North Main St. Westford, MA 01886

PURPOSE

Our Collaborative purpose is to be an instrument of God's loving presence in a very complex, challenging world. With God's grace, we will build and nurture a welcoming community where everyone can experience the fullness of life that Christ offers.

VALUES

- **Faith** – we center our lives trusting in God's love and our relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Openness and Transparency** – we value open communication; will listen and respect the input and opinions of all parishioners; and will provide feedback on Collaborative decisions and financial information.
- **Inclusiveness** – we promote an atmosphere where everyone is welcomed, valued, and respected.
- **Stewardship** – we protect, nurture, and share God's loving gifts (faith, the created world, talents, time and treasure) in order to live a God-centered life.

VISION

Our vibrant Collaborative celebrates God's love through worship, outreach, community building, compassionate ministry to the poor and needy, and sharing with each other the joy, beauty and sorrows of life.

We will speak out clearly, gently, and transparently, aiming to openly promote our Catholic faith: to love one another, sacrifice and forgive.

PRIORITIES

Over the next three years, the priests, deacons, staff and parishioners of the St. Anne-St. Catherine Collaborative will focus our efforts on three pastoral priorities and associated goals in order to fulfill the vision of Disciples in Mission. These include:

- **Priority A** – Help people of all ages experience the love and the joy of Jesus Christ.
- **Priority B** – Encourage Catholics to be intentional in sharing their faith and allowing the Lord to guide them in leadership and service.
- **Priority C** – Develop a Collaborative culture of discernment around vocations, especially to the Archdiocesan priesthood.

Priority A

Help people of all ages experience the love and the joy of Jesus Christ.

Goal #1

Reach out to those who are not currently experiencing the joy of a deep, personal relationship with God through the church.

- Task 1. Develop a targeted, multi-faceted plan to invite and attract Catholics to return, reengage or deepen their relationship with the Church and Jesus. This will include technology and social media (*target date: December 2016*).
- Task 2. Annually conduct a visit by the Archdiocesan “Anonymous Visitor Program”¹ to each Parish for a weekend Mass to evaluate the experience with a special emphasis towards what it would be like for someone looking to re-engage with the Catholic Church (*target date: December 2016*).
- Task 3. Hold semi-annual information sessions that provide personal witness on why someone made a decision to become a Catholic or reestablish their relationship with the Church. Coordinate the event with the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) information night (*target start date: September 2016*).
- Task 4. Discuss with ministry leaders opportunities to reach out to and support others in developing a deeper relationship with the Church and Jesus (*target date: Ongoing*)

Goal #2

Faith Formation – help people of all ages develop a more personal relationship with Jesus.

- Task 1. Develop a tactical plan for adult and youth faith formation, including using social media (*target date: June 2017*).
- Task 2. Implement an annual Lenten renewal program for adults and youth, led by the collaborative staff, who will call for and train creative individuals to execute and expand it. The program would be comprised of small groups focused on prayer life and the deepening of one’s faith. Encourage these groups to continue meeting periodically after Lent. The goal is to involve

¹ The Anonymous Visitor Program involves a visitor assigned by the Archdiocese to come out to the parishes without notice, and then reports back to us about quality of worship, hospitality, etc.

between 300 – 350 participants (*target date: begin process 90 days prior to Ash Wednesday*).

- Task 3. Broaden participation in our three Youth Mission trips – Local Mission Trip for - Grade 7/8 (to 10 – 25 participants); High School Mission Trip - Grade 9 thru 12 (to 125 – 150 participants) and College Mission Trip – Post Grade 12 (to 20 – 30 participants) by 2018. These trips (to some of the neediest regions of our country) create an environment where the youth of our Collaborative parishes can enrich their relationship with God while developing a community of faith with their peers (*target date: July 2017*).
- Task 4. Provide 5 to 8 evening sessions for adult and youth parishioners,² drawing an average of 20 – 30 individuals per session. These events foster fellowship and focus on providing spiritual meaning and the presence of God in our everyday lives (*target date: per calendar year starting 2017*).
- Task 5. Have 10 – 15 adults per year attend a faith enrichment retreat, such as Cursillo or “ACTS” weekend (*target date: January 2017*).
- Task 6. Encourage inter-faith dialogue within the towns of the Collaborative. Continue and expand the participation in the Council of Churches and develop opportunities for lay people to participate in social and inter-religious settings (*target date: Ongoing*)

Goal #3

Deepen the experience of Prayer & Sacramental Life for the parishioners of the Collaborative.

- Task 1. Provide excellence in our Sunday Mass services through a welcoming environment, our adult and youth music ministries, and superb homilies. Key elements in support of this task include:
- i. Expansion of and training for Ministers of Hospitality.
 - ii. Recruitment of 3 – 6 additional adult choir members in each Parish.
 - iii. Periodic feedback, based on a framework established by the Pastor and Pastoral Associates, on the quality of Sunday homilies

(target date: February 2017)

² For example, “God, Pizza & Beer”, “Christ, Women & Wine,” St. Anne’s Men’s Group, Women’s book club, Women’s Sodality, and specific youth oriented activities

- Task 2. Provide resources to parishioners and host a yearly workshop on prayer in everyday life, to help them deepen their personal relationship with God (*target date: March 2017*).

Goal #4

Provide increased opportunities for fellowship.

- Task 1. Schedule regular opportunities for fellowship at both parishes (to be done at annual calendar day).³

Priority B

Encourage Catholics to be intentional in sharing their faith and allowing the Lord to guide them in leadership and service.

Goal #1

Assess ongoing needs of current ministries. This assessment will ensure sufficient resources, continuity of leadership, and ongoing response to people's needs.

- Task 1. Form team to organize and initiate the assessment (*target date: January 2017*).
- Task 2. Conduct, complete and coordinate review of initial findings with priests, staff and ministry leaders (*target date: Fall 2017*)
- Task 3. Incorporate feedback and publish findings (*target date: Spring 2018*)

Goal #2

Assist all parishioners to discern their gifts and where God is calling them

- Task 1. Conduct a "Called and Gifted Workshop" (*target date: January 2018*)
- Task 2. Conduct Ministry Fairs at each Parish (*target date: annually in September 2017*)
- Task 3. Identify and call forth candidates for professional lay ecclesial ministry⁴ and the diaconate (*target date: Ongoing*)

³ Some examples would be coffee & donuts after Mass, parish picnics, suppers, etc.

⁴ Professional lay ecclesial ministers include pastoral associates, directors of religious education, chaplains, directors of youth ministry, hospital and school chaplains, parish finance & operations managers, as well as others requiring specific training and preparation.

Goal #3

Empower, equip, and mentor parishioners and staff to successfully fulfill their ministries.

- Task 1. Empower staff and leaders of the various ministries to establish their goals, structure the approach to meeting ministry needs, and make operational decisions (*target date: ongoing*)
- Task 2. Equip parishioners and staff via training and resources to carry out their ministries (*target date: ongoing*)
- Task 3. Mentor parishioners and staff as they prepare to assume leadership roles and target and train their future successors (*target date: as needed*)

Goal #4

Create a culture of Christian Stewardship centered on the spirituality of sharing our blessings, faith, and chosen vocation with others.

- Task 1. Appoint a Director of Stewardship (*target date: June 2016*).
- Task 2. Use the pulpit, electronic media, and personal witness statements to educate parishioners on what it means to be a Christian Steward in today's world (*target date: October 2016*).
- Task 3. In tandem with an adult program, develop a program for youth focused stewardship e.g. St. Vincent de Paul Youth, and expand on small group activities e.g., Lazarus House, that enable our youth to share their time and talent in service to others (*target date: Spring 2018*)
- Task 4. Recognize annually the gift of volunteer time, effort, and energy that parishioners generously share with our collaborative (*target date: Spring 2017*).

Priority C

Develop a Collaborative culture of discernment around vocations, especially to the Archdiocesan priesthood.

Goal #1

Create a Collaborative Vocational Team to develop and sustain a culture of discernment that fosters vocations through prayer, awareness and personal witness.

- Task 1. Identify parishioners with creativity and openness to promoting vocations (*target date: December 2016*)

- Task 2. Invite potential team members to an information session on team's purpose and timeframe (*target date: March 2017*)
- Task 3. Form the team, create a charter, develop and implement the "living" plan drawing on Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston (RCAB) resources especially from the Vocations Office (*target date: October 2017*)

Goal #2

Introduce parish youth to the ministry of the priesthood.

- Task 1. Invite High School students during their Faith Formation program to supper and a discussion with our parish priests. Our goal is to reach 200+ students annually through 25-30 small group dinners, comprised of 6-8 students each (*target date: September 2016*)
- Task 2. Invite 8th grade students for tours of St. John Seminary, B.C. School of Theology, Theological Institute, or Holy Cross Cathedral (*target date: annually starting 2016*)

Goal #3

Sponsor and mentor seminarians from Pope St. John XXIII Seminary in their formation (1 per year).

- Task 1. Use the pulpit, bulletin and web sites to educate parishioners on the nature of this program and the parishioners' important participation.
- Task 2. Encourage a seminarian to share his personal vocational journey with parishioners. (*target date: annually starting 2016*)