

The Together in Christ Collaborative



Local Pastoral Plan 2017 - 2018

Parishes of Saint Ann and Saint John the Evangelist
West Bridgewater & East Bridgewater, Massachusetts



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A Prayer for the New Evangelization
(source: National Conference of Catholic Bishops)





A Letter from the Pastor



My Dear Friends in Christ,

In 2012, His Eminence Cardinal Seán O’Malley, OFM, Cap., put forth a Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of Boston entitled “Disciples in Mission”. Part One of this “new vision” for the Archdiocese of Boston is dedicated to “Strengthening Parishes for the Work of the New Evangelization” by building up and fortifying the ministerial and material infrastructure of parishes so that stronger evangelization can take place. Part Two of “Disciples in Mission” is dedicated to “Strengthening the Work of the New Evangelization in Parishes” by re-energizing pastoral leadership in parishes and the Central Ministries of the Archdiocese.

Cardinal Seán’s vision puts the parishes of the Archdiocese at the center of the New Evangelization and encourages bold and forward-thinking pastoral planning in our local faith communities. “Disciples in Mission” calls upon our Catholic parishes, as integral members of the Body of Christ, to work more effectively in presenting opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. In order to achieve this goal on the local level, each existing Collaborative (such as our own “Together In Christ Collaborative”), in implementing Disciples in Mission, is charged with the development of its own Local Pastoral Plan.

Our two parishes of Saint John the Evangelist (East Bridgewater) and Saint Ann (West Bridgewater) were named as a Phase Four Collaborative in July of 2016. During these past two years our parishes have achieved much together in order to advance our common mission! The Local Pastoral Plan, presented here for our “Together In Christ Collaborative”, is the fruit of broad-based community discussions and the faithful efforts of our Plan Writing Team (made of members of both parishes of the Collaborative). It is meant to be both a “road map” and “barometer”, establishing a path for pastoral outreach and clear measures in attaining our goals. I am very grateful to all who have assisted with the development of this Local Pastoral Plan for Mission. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may it lead us to more effectively proclaim the Good News!

Peace,

*Fr. Paul Ring, Pastor
“Together in Christ Collaborative”*



Pastoral Plan Writing Team

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Vision Statement

We, **The Together in Christ Collaborative** of St. Ann and St. John the Evangelist, welcome and engage all ages to become the disciples that Jesus is calling all of us to be. United by faith and in the Celebration of the Mass, we embrace the call of Jesus to live our mission to “Go forth and make disciples.” Through evangelization, education, and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we will grow together as One Body of Christ.



Process Summary

This report has been prepared over a period of months and given much thought by both the Parish Communities and the Plan Writing Team. The process began with the survey of the parish wide community using the DMI survey provided by the Archdiocese of Boston's support team. The results of this survey were compiled and returned to the Pastoral Plan Writing Team for their review and Analysis.

In forming the Plan Writing Team great care was taken to ensure that member representation was provided by both St Ann and St John the Evangelist Parishes. Many hours of discussion and draft preparation and reviews occurred until we believe we have prepared a plan that represents the best interest of our Collaborative and will result in mobilizing many Disciples in Mission. A Preliminary Draft of the Collaborative's Pastoral Plan was discussed and made available for review, if desired prior to this final plan presentation. We want to express our thanks to the Plan Writing Team, the Archdiocese of Boston's Support Team, our parishioners feedback, and finally CLI for all the hard work and support provided through out this process. Below is a list of abbreviations which were used within the Goals and Task sections of the Collaborative's Pastoral Plan.

Abbreviations:

SEC = Sunday Experience Committee

PT = Pastoral Team (Fr. Paul Ring, Fr. Mike Harvey, Deacon Joe Hopgood, Deacon Brendan Fitzgerald)

MS = Musical Staff (Paul Hoffman, Matt Cunningham, Erica Wasil)

FFC = Faith Formation Committee

HMC = Hospitality Ministry Committee

VT = Vocations Team



The purpose of this goal is to allow the parishioners to better experience and engage all those present for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. There are infrastructure issues that need to be addressed so that the congregation may hear both the Clergy and Music clearly. Laity participation within the Liturgical Life of the community is important to Discipleship growth and we seek to increase this involvement going forward.

Priority 1: Sunday Experience

Goal: Increase weekend Mass attendance by 100 across both parishes by making our liturgies consistently prayerful, holy, engaging, relevant, and uplifting by November 1, 2020.

Milestone 1: Establish a liturgical life committee by Advent 2018.

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The Pastoral Team (PT) will Identify and invite team members by October 2018
- The Pastoral Team (PT) will Set up a workshop for committee members to study documents pertaining to the Sacred Liturgy by December 2018-January 2019.
- Fr. Paul Ring, Pastor will Publicly commission during a Mass the parishioners who will make up the committee by January-February 2019.

Milestone 2: Committee evaluates the music ministries

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The Sunday Experience Committee (SEC) and the Musical staff (MS) will Assess repertoire, resources, cantors, and musicians (similarities, differences, etc.) by February-March 2019.
- Fr. Paul Ring, Pastor, John Tibbets, Jeff Nevares, and MS will evaluate needs and necessary improvements in sound systems, lights, instruments, etc. by February-March 2019.
- Fr. Paul Ring, Pastor and MS will implement non-physical improvements by April 2019.
- Fr. Paul Ring, Pastor, John Tibbets, Jeff Nevares, MS and Business Manager will implement hardware improvements by June 2019. This task has a potential budget of \$5000 for new system and upgrades.

Milestone 3: Improve liturgical ministries (altar servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers)

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The PT and SEC will Improve recruitment efforts by November 2018 / January 2019. Eventually this task would be managed by SEC only.
- The PT and SEC will establish training and ongoing formation programs by January 2019. This has an anticipated budget of \$100 for materials.
- The PT will transition the task to the SEC by December 2019.



Disciples in Mission need to be formed so that they may enkindle the fire of Jesus Christ within others. To this end the Faith Formation goal was seen as a priority for our Collaborative. A well-formed disciple is able to better communicate the faith to others and by means of Adult Faith Formation and Faith Sharing the fire within grows in intensity.

Priority 2: Faith Formation

Goal: By June 30, 2021, develop a pathway for Adults to grow and deepen in their faith wherever they may be on their journey of discipleship.

Milestone 1: Form and train a Faith Formation Committee to shepherd the process.

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- RCAB Trainers will educate and train the Collaborative Leadership Team to identify and recruit four to eight Commissioned Disciples by August 2018.
- PT will identify and recruit four to eight Commissioned Disciples by November 2018.
- The Faith Formation Committee (FFC) members will attend RCAB's *Forming Disciples in Mission* Workshop in January 2019.

Milestone 2: Select conversion-oriented and disciple-building program(s).

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The FFC will evaluate prior successful parish programs, research/survey parishioners' wants/needs by February 2019.
- The FFC will Research available programs by March 2019.
- Team members go through a program themselves as a trial prior to purchase by June 2019. The estimated budget for this is \$60.

Milestone 3: Implement the program.

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The training of team members by the FFC as needed will be done by September 2019.
- The FFC and Fr. Paul will advertise and call participants by name by October 2019.
- The FFC will implement the program by Lent 2020.
- The FFC, PT, and Parish Council will regularly evaluate and review.

Milestone 4: Investigate methods of supporting growing and commissioned disciples.

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The FFC will evaluate available programs by May 2020.
- Fr. Paul Ring and Business Manager will purchase and implement as needed, Sept / Oct 2020. The budget for this yet to be determined.



As a Faith Community we are called to not only worship together but to live our lives in community and to show love toward each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. It has been recognized that we need to work on ways to be more welcoming so that relationships that will lead to the building of the Kingdom of God will flourish within our Collaborative. Hospitality encompasses every facet of our parish life from being greeted at Mass to fellowship after and outside Mass.

Priority 3: Hospitality

Goal: Increase engagement in all aspects of Collaborative parish life.

Milestone 1: Create a Hospitality Ministry Committee and identify a leader to be accomplished by January 2019

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- RCAB Trainer, PT, and Collaborative Staff will educate and train Collaborative Leadership Team in order to identify potential ministry members by August 2018.
- The PT and Collaborative Staff will invite Disciples that have been identified to have gifts of hospitality by October 2018. It is estimated that the committee will be comprised of six to eight people.
- The HMC and Collaborative Staff will train and commission hospitality ministry members by January 2019.

Milestone 2: Determine which areas of Hospitality are to be priorities of the Collaborative to be accomplished by May 2019.

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The HMC team prepares and implements a parish survey to measure parish engagement and how to improve on that by February 2019.
- The HMC team investigates best practices of other churches in the area of hospitality by March 2019.
- The HMC team creates a hierarchy of initiatives aimed at improving the culture of hospitality across the Collaborative by April 2019.
- The HMC Team and Business Manager constructs a budget proposal based on the potential financial needs of those initiatives by May 2019.
- The HMC Team and Business Manager Team reports findings and proposal to the Pastor and Parish Council by May 2019.

Milestone 3: Implement new hospitality initiatives by Advent 2019.

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The HMC will implement new hospitality initiatives by Advent 2019

Milestone 4: Evaluate on a regular basis and make adjustments as needed.

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The HMC will implement new hospitality initiatives Starting in Jun 2020 with Quarterly Reports.



Our lives are a gift from God and therefore we all should always be asking, “what it is that God desires me to do with this life he has given to me” -whether this be the vocation of married life, single life, or a religious life. God has given us a great gift in those individuals that have answered His call to the vocation of Priesthood, the Permanent Diaconate, or Religious life and it is important that as a faith filled community we especially foster a culture that supports and encourages these particular vocations. In this goal we seek to be a light for those to better see their vocational calling, particularly when God is calling them to the vocation of Priest, Permanent Deacon, or a Religious.

Priority 4: Vocations

Goal: Create a Collaborative Vocation Team that is intentional about fostering vocations through prayer, awareness, and invitations by the Feast of Christ the King, 2019.

Milestone 1: Form and train a Vocations Team.

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- Educate and train a Collaborative Vocations team (VT) to identify and recruit members of Collaborative Vocations team (CVT) Train team members via Archdiocesan Vocations office programs / training by January 2019.

Milestone 2: Identify three Prayer related activities directed toward increased Vocations.

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The Collaborative Staff will incorporate Prayers for Vocations within the Prayers of the Faithful by July 2018.
- Parish Religious Education Directors, Lorraine Hopgood, and Charlotte Leines will have Religious Education Students pray for a specific Seminarian and write to tell them that they are being prayed for by September 2018.
- The PT will develop and implement an annual collaborative wide prayer service for vocations by September 2018.
- The PT will transition the Development and implementation of annual collaborative wide prayer service for vocations to the VT by March-April 2019.

Milestone 3: Increase awareness of vocations within the Collaborative.

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The Collaborative Staff will include Vocations Awareness article in the weekly bulletin on a monthly basis.
- The VT, PT, and Religious Education Directors will educate Religious Education children about vocations and develop and implement Parish wide vocations awareness through a program directed towards adults by March 2019.

Milestone 4: Develop opportunities for vocations to Priest, Diaconate, or Religious Vocations.

Associated tasks for this milestone:

- The VT, Fr. Paul Ring and Fr. Mike Harvey will identify and invite individuals to the St. Andrews Dinner or RCAB program/ events that may not be sponsored by the RCAB on an ongoing basis.

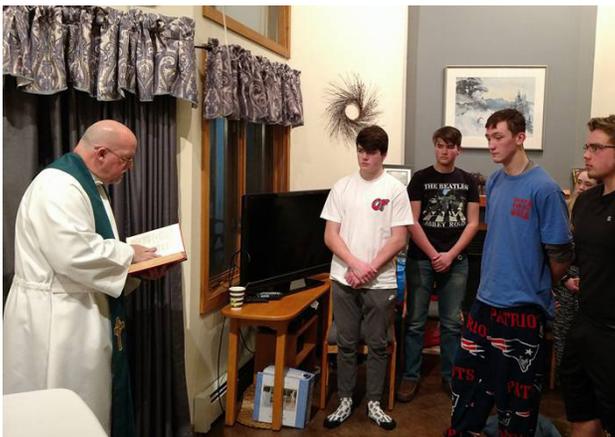


Communication Plan

The Together in Christ Collaborative Pastoral Plan SMART Goals (June 2018)

The Together in Christ Collaborative's Pastoral Plan's Communication Plan:

- Fr. Paul Ring, Pastor to speak at each Mass (in both churches) regarding the work put into the plan, the Smart Goals at the highest level, and the process step. This will be in June.
- The Plan will be posted on the Parish Websites for parishioners to review
- Team members will be available to answer questions and receive feedback about the Approved Pastoral Plan.
- A Town Hall Meeting will be held to review the Approved Pastoral Plan and discuss roll out of the plan.





Prayer for Plan Implementation

Prayer for the New Evangelization– National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Everyone calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent?

Romans 10: 13-15

Heavenly Father,

Pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire us with these words from Holy Scripture. Stir in our souls the desire to renew our faith and deepen our relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we might truly believe in and live the Good News. Open our hearts to hear the Gospel and grant us the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others. Pour out your Spirit, so that we might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in our everyday lives through our words and actions. In moments of hesitation, remind us:

If not us, then who will proclaim the Gospel?

If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?

If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall we proclaim?

God, our Father, we pray that through the Holy Spirit we might hear the call of the New Evangelization to deepen our faith, grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel and boldly witness to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.