

Cranberry Catholic Collaborative

Harvesters in Christ

First Year Report



My dear friends in Christ:

I find it refreshing that Jesus took time to retreat in his time on earth, to pray, to take time to process all that He was going through and to find some perspective in His ministry—it encourages me to do that, too. I find myself often telling people that perspective is incredibly important—it can help us see how far we've come and remind us that we have a long way to go.

It's incredible to me sometimes to believe how far the Cranberry Catholic Collaborative has come, particularly since the formulation of our Pastoral Plan and the path it has laid out for us. I pause and think of all the initiatives we began, all the meetings we've conducted, the challenges we faced, the opportunities we took advantage of, the lessons we've learned. It is, when one looks at it with some perspective, rather staggering.

It's important for us to remember in all this that our responsibility is not to dwell on the successes of the past, but to learn from the past and prepare for the opportunities that are ahead of us. We all need some perspective, some patience, some focus, and a whole lot of faith as we can see that we are in a relay race, as it were, holding the torch of the Holy Spirit as St. Paul challenges us to keep on running.

What we need to keep in mind in this race is that we don't run alone—our three families run together. We learn together, grow together, heal together, pray together, we follow Christ together. The Pastoral Plan has provided us with an important game plan to get there—this is our opportunity to reflect on it, learn from it, and see where it and Christ may be guiding us from here.

As the Holy Spirit has brought us together and reminded us of the journey that has brought us to this point in our Collaborative and especially in the Plan, may we never lose that perspective that reminds us of why we are doing this, for the glory of God and the service of His holy people. Thank you for all you've done—and for all that will come.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. John

A Note from Holly...

Way back in 2008 I entered a Masters of Arts Program at St. John's Seminary. My very first course was in pastoral planning. I learned so very much in this course regarding parish structures, ecclesiology, the necessity of planning for the future etc. I fell in love with pastoral planning. I felt as if God had set me on a journey! Fast forward to 2013, I receive my degree, we form our collaborative and we got Fr. John! God had a plan! With my love for pastoral planning I found myself coordinating our collaborative efforts to implement our plan. I have gone to many trainings and many, many meetings (with many more to come, I am sure). For me the CCC pastoral planning process has been an honor, and a labor of love.

When we first put together the plan we wanted to start everything all at once in our excitement, and, I will admit to also being impatient- I felt like I was planting seeds and never seeing any fruit. Little did I know I was looking in the wrong place! When I actually started writing various reports I realized how much we had already accomplished! I needed to realize that God is in control— we get things rolling, and then he guides our journey!

As I put together this report I find I am full of love for our parishioners, our faith, our plan, and for all that is to come. We have come very far in just a little over a year under Harvesters in Christ. I see our efforts reflected back to me in the eyes of the families I meet in Gateway Moments and what I see is the light of Christ shining through.

As we move forward in our pastoral plan I truly feel we are doing God's work. I cannot wait to see what our future together will bring. I am very blessed and humbled just to be a part of this incredible journey with you towards a new Church. *Peace be with you always, Holly*

Holly Clark
Pastoral Associate and Pastoral Plan Coordinator



Priority: Creating Joyful Opportunities to Encounter Christ

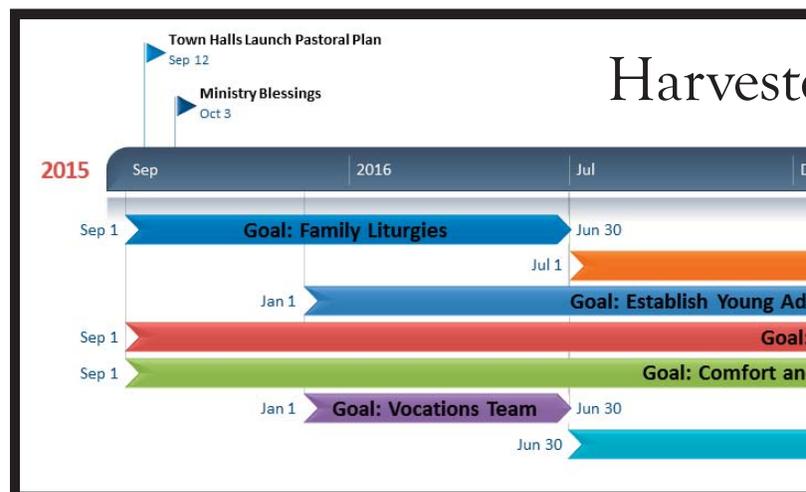
This priority focuses on the many ways we can encounter Christ in our parishes and how we, as a people of faith can help create and facilitate these encounters, especially with those who have been away from the faith. This priority has many facets with three main components: Family Liturgies, Gateway Moments, and Young Adult Faith-sharing and fellowship opportunities. Our accomplishments thus far:

Family Liturgies: Family liturgies have been established in all three churches, and have been aligned with the Generations of Faith tie-in Masses. The music is family friendly, the Children's Lectionary is used and families often serve together as lectors, choir members, altar servers etc. Family Liturgies occur 1-2x/month in each location.

Gateway Moments: These include Baptisms, Funerals, Marriages, First Communions, etc.- anywhere you find people coming to us for an event or "gateway moment". Here the idea is to find ways to keep in touch and invite those who have been away to come back to living the faith. We are currently working on the infrastructure to support this goal which would include databases for mailing lists, and tracking. For baptisms and funerals we are looking at periodic mailings to send to families to let them know we care about them and to give them support in raising a family Catholic or, in the case of funerals, let the bereaved know we are walking with them, supporting them in their grief.

Young Adult Ministry: In the Fall of 2016, a team has formed and beginning to meet and pray on how to best accomplish this goal.

What other Gateway Moments can you think of?



Priority: Opening Wide Our Hearts

This focuses on opening wide our hearts and minds to those outside of our church walls. We invite you to be witnesses to Christ in your lives, homes, and the world in both word and deed. Our accomplishments thus far include:

Witnessing: Thus far more than 40 people have been trained in how to give a witness talk to a group or to share their witness to the faith, one-on-one, in short 3 minute bursts. Workshops will be offered in 2017 to include the entire parish. What's your story? Would you be willing to share?

Sister Parish: We have established a sister parish in Uganda- Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church Buchunya in Mbale. Thus far we have raised over \$10,000 to help them with a special project of building a school. As we move forward we will be looking at other ways we can help as well as ways we can share faith and love.

Catholic Relief Service Ambassadors: Several parishioners have received training to be CRS Ambassadors who raise awareness of the plight of those in third world countries. Also, through CRS we raise awareness by purchasing and reselling CRS Fair Trade Products at the annual Sts. Martha and Mary Christmas Bazaar.

Parish Nursing: Through a grant from the Catholic Health Fund we were able to provide monies to help shore up our Parish Nurse program. A Parish Nurse holds office hours on Thursday afternoons at Sacred Heart. Bereavement Groups and counseling have been enhanced and an AED unit was purchased for Sts. Martha and Mary.

Many more opportunities to open our hearts will come in 2017!



Priority: Hearing His Voice

This priority focuses on Vocations. Vocations not only consist of the priests, deacons, and religious brothers and sisters but also married couples and single people. Each of us has a calling in life. God calls into his mission to continue serving and loving one another as his Son, Jesus did.

This past summer of 2016 we established a Vocations Team, completing one of our primary goals under this priority. The team consists of clergy, married and single lay persons. The task of the Vocations Committee is to promote vocations through prayer, activities, and awareness. The accomplishments of this team, in a very short span of time, include:

- **Vocations Prayer Team-** the Vocations Prayer Team meets every Wednesday at Sacred Heart to pray for vocations, at 9 am.

- **Vocations Evening:** "One Voice, Many Callings" The team invited a priest, deacon, nun, married couple and single person. More than 225 persons attended the evening- the audience being confirmation students, their parents, and interested parishioners. It was a fantastic evening (Nuns like horror movies- who knew?)

- To begin in Advent 2016, a **Vocations Cross Program** will be established. Each week the Vocations Cross will be received by a family, couple or single person to be brought home and vocations will be prayed for. After a week the cross is passed on to a new family or person. The Vocations Cross will travel to all three locations.

Please pray for our Vocations Team and Vocations, in general. What will 2017 bring us? Exciting times are ahead!

ers in Christ Overview



Foundational Ministries

Foundational Ministry goals are those smaller goals that either do not fall under a major priority but are still goals we need to complete to support the plan and mission of the Church. Thus far we have accomplished more than we can list here but among the highlights we include:

- Offering the Generations of Faith program in all 3 churches
- Vacation Bible School started
- Weekly Collaborative Eucharistic Adoration (with Divine Mercy Chaplet) began.
- Improvements being made to buildings including sound systems, lighting, boiler, floors, etc.
- Chairlift installed at Sts. Martha and Mary to improve access to the hall by those with disabilities.
- Staff Meetings and PPC Meetings restructured to facilitate implementation of Harvesters in Christ.
- Staff and volunteers are attending a multitude of workshops in discipleship, evangelization, prayer, and hospitality- in support of the pastoral plan.

How Can You Help?

Have you found yourself inspired by our pastoral plan, Harvesters in Christ? Do you feel God's call to become a disciple in our common mission to spread the Gospel of our Lord? There are many ways to contribute- one by jumping right in and joining a team or committee, calling us up and saying "I am ready, what needs doing?" or perhaps you have a new idea or special gift or talent to contribute. We invite all of you to join us in planting, cultivating and harvesting fruitful encounters with the real presence of Jesus Christ. All of you have something to give- your ideas, your gifts, your prayers and your heart. Give us a ring- 508-947-0444!

Blessings and Challenges from Our Leadership Team

Our Leadership Team is composed of representatives from all three churches: Fr. John Sheridan, Fr. J.T. Osunkwo, Deacon Charlie Bower, Deacon George Gabriel, Holly Clark, Joanne Mercier, Amy Dow, Kevin Mercier, Brenda Roose, Lisa Bosse, and Jackie Bean. The purpose of the Leadership Team is to implement the pastoral plan, Harvesters in Christ. They would like to share some thoughts on the blessings and challenges of implementing Harvesters in Christ:

- **Blessing:** We feel we are doing the work of the Holy Spirit! And the Trinity is guiding us.
- **Blessing:** The faithful being willing to do whatever to step up and serve and the desire to start every goal yesterday.
- **Challenge:** The mission model of being church is hard for some to transition to. The past model of church has been a maintenance mode and not focused on mission and discipleship. Thus volunteers are hard to find and volunteer leadership needs to be supported with spiritual and human formation for mission and discipleship.
- **Challenge:** Wanting to start every goal yesterday and needing to have the patience to go slow and not just hurry up in haste just for the sake of forward motion.
- **Challenge:** It is difficult to stay focused on plans, projects, and goals. We all have other commitments within our jobs. Implementing the plan and meetings are an additional job/task and fitting it in can be challenging.
- **Blessing:** The plan permeates into all areas of ministry- the values of joy, respect and hospitality govern all that we do; new ideas and new ways of being Christ are emerging. It has been a lot of work at times, but it has helped the Leadership Team keep focused on our priorities and goals.
- **Blessing:** Having the bulk of the pastoral and administrative staff in one office location offers new opportunities for collaboration. Ideas are often bounced around and new ideas arise. This was not possible in the days prior to the pastoral plan.
- **Blessing:** The plan provides a new way of looking at ministry- evangelization and discipleship are being integrated into areas not covered by plan and new ideas for lessons in faith formation arise as a result of the plan.
- **Challenge:** Not everyone understands that this is a long-term plan and we need to also build infrastructure to support long-term goals. Gone are the days of whipping up a committee and forming a ministry in a week! We are building for the future and sometimes that tests other's patience.

Cranberry Catholic Collaborative:

Sts. Martha and Mary, Lakeville

Sacred Heart, Middleboro

St. Rose of Lima, Rochester

www.cranberrycatholic.org 508-947-0444