

Lynnfield Catholic Collaborative



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

Saint Maria Goretti Parish

PASTORAL PLAN

May 14, 2015

Lynnfield Catholic Collaborative

Our Lady of the Assumption
17 Grove Street
Lynnfield, MA 01940



Saint Maria Goretti
112 Chestnut Street
Lynnfield, MA 01940

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May 14, 2015

His Eminence Seán Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap.
Pastoral Center Archdiocese of Boston
66 Brooks Drive
Braintree, MA 02184-3839

Your Eminence:

It is a pleasure and an honor to present you with the Pastoral Plan for the Catholic Community of Lynnfield. This plan represents months of consultation and prayerful deliberation among members of the faithful of our two parishes and parochial school. We are very grateful for the hard work of our talented team of writers, and for the able assistance of representatives of the Pastoral Center and the Catholic Leadership Institute in putting this plan together. We think our plan has deep roots in the soil of *Disciples in Mission*, and once implemented promises to bear much fruit. This plan will undoubtedly be a valuable resource for us as we labor to build up our community of faith through a greater focus on effective evangelization and a more intentional discipleship on the part of our members.

The Catholic Community of Lynnfield is blessed and privileged to be in Phase One of the new Collaborative model of parish life. We are especially grateful to you for your pastoral leadership and support.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Paul E. Ritt".

Rev. Paul E. Ritt
Pastor

The Local Pastoral Plan for the Lynnfield Catholic Collaborative 2015-2018

“The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. Parishes are the home of the Christian community; they are the heart of our Church.”

*National Conference of Catholic Bishops
Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Our Collaborative Purpose

The purpose of the Lynnfield Catholic Community is to welcome all in brotherly love; to build up the community of believers and to lead all members to a deeper relationship with Christ our Savior.

The Values that Guide Our Community

Authentic - Living as the people God created us to be by being truthful, genuine, and sincere in all actions and communications; to be true witnesses of Christ. We live out this value in the following ways:

- Being humble; acknowledging our imperfections and limitations; showing our willingness to seek help to grow in faith, knowledge and experience.
- Promoting a culture of mutual trust and respect by exhibiting trust and respect to those whose ideas and opinions differ from our own.
- Offering all who enter our church a warm and hospitable environment; the stranger becomes cherished guest through the actions of parishioners, including all greeters, ushers, and clergy with an opportunity to welcome one another.

Love - As a community, we embrace all; no matter what gender, ethnicity, social standing, age and orientations with non-judgmental words and actions in the example of Jesus Christ. We live out this value in the following ways:

- Proclaiming the gospel with a meaningful, relevant message that inspires us to live out the Church’s mission every day.
- Gathering members of the faith community to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, comfort the grieving, pray with the imprisoned and care for the sick with love and compassion.
- Supporting a sense of belonging by walking side by side with people on their faith journey, meeting people where they are.
- Providing a safe haven where we can give powerful witness about our church experience as co-workers in the Vineyard.

Unity - Living in a condition of harmony and community centered in Christ. We live out this value in the following ways:

- Providing opportunities to gather for small group faith sharing.
- Inviting parishioners to live out their Baptismal call; to use their gifts to serve one another through ministry opportunities.
- Gathering people for study, outreach, education, formation and fun.
- Offering pastoral care programs that respond to the everyday needs of individuals and families in crisis.

Our Collaborative Vision

When we implement our Pastoral Plan, our Eucharistic celebrations will be filled with disciples. Social justice and stewardship will be practiced daily, a culture of vocations will produce priests from within our community, and our parishes will be vital centers for bringing the Good News to all. Our Catholic school will continue to offer a superior educational experience within a nurturing environment rooted in the Catholic faith. Each parish will maintain its distinct identity and integrity, while broadening our parishioner base and welcoming those from our neighborhoods who are missing today. Our shared financial support will create healthy buildings and facilities that will support the ongoing mission that Christ has entrusted to us.

Our Collaborative Priorities for 2015-2018

Over the next three years, the priests, deacons, lay staff and parishioners of the Lynnfield Collaborative will focus our efforts on the following three pastoral priorities and associated goals in order to fulfill the mandate of *Disciples in Mission* and foster the New Pentecost in our local church.

Priority #1: *Build the Weekend Experience*

- Goal: Build up the adult choir from 20 to 40 members and the children's choir from 8 to 20 members to better engage and encourage the assembly to sing and to elevate the worship experience.
- Goal: To increase Mass attendance by 100 families among Our Lady of the Assumption School, and Our Lady of the Assumption and Saint Maria Goretti Faith Formation families.

Priority #2: *Develop a Communications Strategy*

- Goal: Create a Digital Media Ministry.
- Goal: To raise funds for the purchase of electronic message boards that deliver parish news in a creative and inviting way to passersby and individuals who otherwise have no contact with our churches.

Priority #3: *Establish Lifelong Faith Formation*

- Goal: Establish a Vocations Committee to promote an ongoing culture of vocations to the diocesan priesthood.
 - Goal: Develop two new adult faith formation programs annually.
-

Year 1: July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016

Priority #1: Build the Weekend Experience

The rationale for this priority is:

“The New Evangelization places a special emphasis on welcoming back to the Lord’s Table all those who are absent, because they are greatly missed and needed to build up the Body of Christ.”

Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization, p.3

Goal: Build up the adult choir from 20-40 members and the children’s choir from 8-20 members to better engage and encourage the assembly to sing and to elevate the worship experience.

The rationale for this goal is:

“By its very nature song has both an individual and a communal dimension...it is no wonder that singing together in church expresses so well the sacramental presence of God to his people.” *Sing to the Lord, # 2*

When a parish is worshipping God together through song, in a sincere and selfless way, it is transformative.

White and Corcoran, Rebuilt (Notre Dame, IN: Ava Maria Press, 2013) 105.

Some of the milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Recruit
 - A. Students from our Parish Faith Formation Programs
 - B. Students from Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School
 - C. Students from our local public schools
 - D. Adult and youth musicians and instrumentalists
 - E. Adults and youth from our weekend liturgies
- Events
 - F. Host a ‘Choir Open House’
 - G. Invite a choir member to give a witness talk at selected Masses
 - H. Invite the choir of a neighboring parish to sing at one or several of our Masses
 - I. Invite the choir of a neighboring parish to sing at one or several of our Masses
 - J. Host an annual Christmas Concert
 - K. Arrange a visit to see a renowned choir
 - L. Provide a weekend retreat experience for all choir members
 - M. Invite choir members to participate in the Lynnfield Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service in November
 - N. Arrange a pilgrimage to Rome for the combined choirs of the Lynnfield Collaborative to sing at Santa Maria della Vittoria, the Titular Church of His eminence Sean P. Cardinal O’Malley
 - O. Provide workshops on the varied uses of musical forms such as ostinato refrains, call and response, song translations and bilingual or multilingual repertoire, i.e. Latin
- Other
 - P. Publicize our need for choir members through the parish website, bulletin and other electronic and print means.
 - Q. Repair our church organ or purchase another.
 - R. Designate and design an acoustical space in the church for the expanded choir.

- S. Purchase additional musical instruments to enhance worship
- T. Purchase contemporary liturgical music books
- U. Post video of Choir singing on YouTube

Goal: To increase Mass attendance by 100 families among Our Lady of the Assumption School families and the Faith Formation families from Our Lady of the Assumption and Saint Maria Goretti.

The rationale for this goal comes from:

...the new evangelization is a summons addressed to all and that it is carried out in three principal settings. In the first place, we can mention the area of *ordinary pastoral ministry*, which is “animated by the fire of the Spirit, so as to inflame the hearts of the faithful who regularly take part in community worship and gather on the Lord’s Day to be nourished by his word and by the bread of eternal life.” In this category we can include those members of the faithful who preserve a deep and sincere faith, expressing it in different ways, but seldom taking part in worship. Ordinary pastoral ministry seeks to help believers to grow spiritually so that they can respond to God’s love ever more fully in their lives.

The Church, in her maternal concern, tries to help them experience a conversion which will restore the joy of faith to their hearts and inspire a commitment to the Gospel. #15.

Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* of the Holy Father, Pope Francis

Some of the milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Recruit
 - A. In collaboration with the principal and staff, Our Lady of the Assumption School children to serve in various liturgical ministry positions, i.e. greeters, etc.
 - B. In collaboration with the Coordinators of Faith Formation, children to serve in various liturgical ministry positions, i.e. gift bearers, etc.
 - C. Parents and children to participate in Children’s Liturgy of the Word
 - D. Families to host coffee and donuts following all Family Masses
- Prayer
 - E. Opportunities for our Catholic school, faculty, students and administrators in our weekly Universal Prayers
 - F. Opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration following Mass
 - G. Creating a deeper sense of prayer during Mass
- Other
 - H. Dedicate a portion of the parish bulletin to OLA School News
 - I. Dedicate a portion of the parish bulletin to OLA and SMG children’s faith formation news
 - J. Invite OLA teachers and administrators to give witness talks
 - K. Invite catechists from faith formation programs to give witness talks
 - L. Develop a rotating schedule of children’s homilies and Children’s Liturgy of the Word at the Family Mass at both parishes
 - M. Dedicate space on our website specifically for children of our parish as they live out mission
 - N. Schedule faith formation classes and events around Mass
 - O. Outreach to visitors and newcomers at Sunday Mass

Priority #2: Develop a Communications Strategy

The rationale for this priority is:

“The first Areopagus of the modern age is the world of communication, which is unifying humanity and turning it into what is known as a “Global village.” The means of social communication have become so important as to be for many the chief means of information and education, of guidance and inspiration in their behavior as individuals, families and within society at large.” *Redemptoris Missio* # 37 Pope John Paul II 1990

“For this reason the effective use of mass media has become essential for evangelization and catechesis.” *Aetatis Novae* #11

Goal: Create a Digital Media Ministry.

The rationale for this goal is:

“In addition to the numerous traditional means used in catechesis, all the various instruments of mass media should be employed to proclaim the Gospel message.” *National Directory for Catechesis* p. 106

Some of the milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Create/Develop
 - A. Create a Communications Committee and recruit members
 - B. Develop a communications plan to better utilize all methods of communications; electronic, digital media and print
 - C. Create a more visually appealing and user friendly website.
 - D. Create Lynnfield Catholic Community blog
 - E. Brand our church; creating and communicating its unique identity
- Other
 - F. Purchase equipment to allow for live streaming in the nave of the church and both parish halls
 - G. Reformat our parish bulletins
 - H. Send seasonal postcards from the Lynnfield Catholic Community to all households in the greater Lynnfield area to publicize Mass schedules and parish events especially during the Advent and Lenten season
 - I. Write articles about parish events for submittal to local newspapers for those who prefer printed news
 - J. Improve the sound system in both churches
- Web
 - K. Encourage web traffic to our website and monitor number of views
 - L. Place a link to Pope Francis’ weekly message on our website
 - M. Video stream personal witness stories to be played before Mass
 - N. Place a link on our website to Cardinal Sean’s blog
 - O. Begin Live streaming of our weekend Masses from our website
 - P. Video stream modeling and witness from those involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
 - Q. Provide a link on our website to USCCB website and digital bible
 - R. Provide workshops for Leadership Team, volunteers and catechists to be trained in all digital and electronic communications

Goal: To raise funds for the purchase of electronic message boards that deliver parish news in a creative and inviting way to passersby and individuals who otherwise have no contact with our churches.

The rationale for this goal is:

“It is also necessary to integrate that message into the “new culture”: created by modern communications...since the “new culture” originates not just from whatever content is eventually expressed, but from the very fact that there exist new ways of communicating...with new techniques...”

Redemptoris Missio # 37 Pope John Paul II

Some of the milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- A. Complete a feasibility study
- B. Obtain municipal codes and regulations for outdoor electronic message signs.
- C. Obtain necessary town permits
- D. Develop a fundraising strategy
- E. Develop a plan for collecting information and discerning what material will appear on the message board and for what duration
- F. Encourage and provide opportunities to make Public Service announcements.
- G. Publicize all parish events, Mass times, collations, dinners, family festivals, etc. using this means of communication. (Also to be considered; wedding and funeral information)
- H. To invite individuals/families for whom the church has no current communication to worship with us

Priority #3: Establish Lifelong Faith Formation

The rationale for this priority is:

“Catechesis for those who have received the sacraments of initiation goes beyond that which was provided by initiatory catechesis. It serves the continuing conversion and ongoing formation of those who have been initiated into the faith. Such continuing conversion and ongoing formation are the responsibility of the whole Catholic community and occur most fruitfully within the community. Ongoing catechesis fosters the growth of a more mature faith in the members of the community. It aims to make each person’s faith ‘living, explicit and active...enlightened by doctrine.’ Ongoing catechesis is “a lifelong process for the individual and a constant and concerted pastoral activity of the Christian community.”

National Directory for Catechesis, #19, E. p.58-59

“...bring about (through formation) in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.”

Go and Make Disciples, USCCB p. 17

Goal: Establish a Vocations Committee to promote an ongoing culture of vocations to the diocesan priesthood.

The rationale for this goal is:

The collaborative pastoral plans will address vocation recruitment within the parishes of the collaborative – especially to the priesthood, with emphasis on the use of prayer in this work, the discernment and identification of candidates, and the mentoring of candidates in the recognition and acceptance of their vocations.

Disciples in Mission, p. 6, # 10.d.

Catechesis concerning the Sacrament of Holy Orders should be provided for all the faithful so that they may have a clear understanding that bishops, priests, and deacons are called by Christ and, through sacramental ordination, are empowered to minister in his name and in the name of the Church. It emphasizes the intimate connection between the ministerial priesthood and the common priesthood of the faithful. It encourages support for bishops, priest, and deacons so that they may remain faithful to their call and be effective in their ministry. It includes prayer for those in Holy Orders and for new vocations to the ordained ministry... provides opportunities for young men to consider the call to the ministerial priesthood.

National Directory for Catechesis p. 140

Some of the milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Create
 - A. Create a Vocations Committee Task Force and recruit members from both parishes
 - B. Create a one month collaborative-wide initiative, ‘Pray for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood’ annual event
 - C. Create and maintain a website blog, “A Day in the Life of a Priest...”
 - D. Create/develop a lesson on vocations to the archdiocesan priesthood for all faith formation and catholic school classes beginning with Grade 5
 - E. Initiate a Panel Discussion of Priests from the Diocesan priesthood to discuss and field questions about discerning priesthood, seminary life, Baptismal call, Servanthood, etc.

- F. Create a program to educate and inform our faith communities about the “Adopt a Priest” apostolate, so as to encourage a layperson to pray for a bishop or diocesan priest daily
- G. Initiate a “Take a Seminarian to School” Day Program at Our Lady of the Assumption School
- H. Institute a 40 Hours for Vocations Program.
- I. Initiate a program of annual visits to a nearby seminary
- Invite
 - J. Invite 1-15 boys and young men to attend next year’s St. Andrew Dinner
 - K. Invite the Archdiocesan Director of Vocations to give a vocations talk to Confirmation students in both parishes
 - L. Invite a seminarian to give a witness talk at selected Masses
 - M. Invite a priest to speak about their vocational call at Masses in both parishes.
 - N. To invite a member of the Serra Club of Boston to speak formally to parishioners at Mass or informally during coffee and donuts following Mass
 - O. Invite and encourage participation among homeschooling families to attend; “*Homeschooling Family Gathering*” at St. John’s Seminary for Mass, Vocation Talks and lunch
- Prayer
 - P. Institute the Vocation’s Cross or Chalice Program with accompanying prayer cards for individuals, families, ministry and committee members, teachers and students
 - Q. Purchase or make *Prayer for Vocations* cards for the assembly to pray at each Mass and to distribute to our youth at OLA Catholic School and OLA and SMG faith formation programs
 - R. Purchase “Pray for Priests” magnets and distribute to all parishioners as a daily reminder of our need
 - S. Make available to all parishioners our Monthly Prayer Requests for Priests calendars as a reminder to pray for our priests and to serve as a reminder of our need
 - T. Begin a Holy Hours for Vocations annual event
 - U. Share with your Rosary Group-- vocation meditation prayers for the Sorrowful, Joyful, and Glorious Mysteries
 - V. Participate in the World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- Other
 - W. Collect funds to assist a seminarian in his formation
 - X. Purchase and post Seminarian Posters
 - Y. Encourage the Lynnfield Collaborative Book Club to read and discuss a book about the critical priest shortage and how we can support vocations to the priesthood in our parishes
 - Z. Encourage catechists and Catholic School teachers to identify young men from their classrooms who demonstrate knowledge and love of theology, or who feel called, to consider the priesthood

Goal: Develop two new adult faith formation programs annually.

The rationale for this goal is:

“The primary reason for adult catechesis—its first and essential objective—is to help adults themselves grow to maturity of faith as members of the Church and society. The *General Catechetical Directory* views adult catechesis as the summit of the entire catechetical enterprise, while, from another perspective, it stands at the center of the Church’s educational mission.”
Sharing the Light of Faith #40

“Because of its importance and because all other forms of catechesis are oriented in some way to it, the catechesis of adults must have high priority at all levels of the Church. The success of programs for children and youth depends to a significant extent upon the words, attitudes, and actions of the adult community, especially parents, family, and guardians.”
Sharing the Light of Faith #188

“Adults are seen not just as the recipients of catechesis but as those who fulfill the mission of the church by giving witness to the good news in every setting in which they find themselves.”

Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community (An Overview by M.N. Ralph)

Some of the milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Create/Develop
 - A. Create an Advisory Board and recruit members to help develop programs and support lifelong faith formation
 - B. Create a Book Discussion Club to engage adults on current issues facing the church, spiritual classics and testimonials that inspire us to discipleship
 - C. Create intergenerational activities based on the liturgical calendar for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost so that parents and children are able to share in the same faith experience
 - D. Develop and build a “Growing Faith Project” resource around which small faith communities of many kinds can gather to both share faith and learn about the Church
 - E. Develop the practice of “The Question of the Week” in the parish bulletin, the website or as part of the mass announcements to help break into the texts of Scripture
 - F. Develop a program of regularly scheduled witness talks where parishioners can speak about their conversion experience and encounter with Christ at Mass, during committee and liturgical ministry meetings. Video-tape these talks and stream them before Mass begins or place a link on the website so people can watch
 - G. Create a special ministry to young adults in our parish and a prayer program for parents who have young adults in college
 - H. Create a Bereavement Ministry so adults in the community can participate in the ministry of consolation and to comfort those who mourn
- Other
 - I. Provide seasonal materials and resources yearly to the parents of children attending our Catholic school and our faith formation programs
 - J. Offer adults non-retreat encounters such as Alpha for Catholics or RENEW, Life in the Spirit Seminars
 - K. Offer parish-based retreats such as *Christ Renews His Parish* or *Koinonia*
 - L. Recruit members (individuals or families) for the Saint Vincent DePaul Society so parishioners can join together to work for justice, locally or around the world
 - M. Offer workshops on funeral planning, liturgical rites, history of the church, the Adult Catechism, Pastoral Care of the sick, the mission of the church, forms of prayer, etc.

- N. Prepare written and electronic resources on the scripture readings for parishioners to take with them when they leave Mass and be made available on our website
- O. Train Catholics for one-to-one evangelization and offer evangelization components in faith formation materials
- P. Continue the practice of offering an intergenerational three-day Lenten Mission
- Q. Recruit men for the Lynnfield Catholic Community Men's Prayer Group

Collaborative Foundational Ministries

While focusing on our priorities, we will continue to attend to the areas of ministry that are ongoing in our parishes. Below is a list of some of the initiatives that we will seek to complete over the next three years.

Education and Formation

Over the next three years, we will seek to complete the following initiatives and activities in this area:

- a. Create a Youth Ministry Advisory Board by October 1, 2015.
- b. Create three youth ministry activities/events aimed specifically at our seventh and eighth grade students by July 1, 2016.
- c. Increase the student enrollment of Our Lady of the Assumption School from 310 to 330 by September 1, 2017.

Sacraments and Worship

Over the next three years, we will seek to complete the following initiatives and activities in this area:

- a. Offer collaborative office services; i.e. mass cards, Mass Intentions on Sunday morning between Masses by September 13, 2015.
- b. Begin a new program to identify newly Confirmed Youth who feel called to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion or as Readers for our liturgies by November 1, 2016.
- c. Offer an annual retreat experience for Liturgical Ministers by May 31, 2017.

Governance and Finance

Over the next three years, we will seek to complete the following initiatives and activities in this area:

- a. Repair the network of leaking pipes at Saint Maria Goretti Church by November 30, 2015.
- b. Repair and/or replace doors on Our Lady of the Assumption Church and the collaborative office building by September 30, 2016.
- c. Repair or replace the roof on Our Lady of the Assumption Church by September 1, 2017.

Social Services and Outreach

Over the next three years, we will seek to complete the following initiatives and activities in this area:

- a. Develop a partnership with *Haven from Hunger* and *My Brother's Table* by December 30, 2015.
- b. Form a Stewardship Committee and recruit members by August 30, 2016.

Evangelization and Vocations

Over the next three years, we will seek to complete the following initiatives and activities in this area:

- a. Create a pull down tab with content specifically related to vocations on our website by August 1, 2015.
- b. Initiate a program of sending "check-in" cards to families of newly baptized babies within our parishes by June 1, 2016.
- c. Create an Evaluation Committee to review progress on our pastoral plan by January 1, 2017.

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