

**Sacred Heart & Saint Thomas More, Weymouth/Braintree**

**Collaborative Pastoral Plan Update**

2017-2022

**Updates, October 15, 2020 in red ink**



*Sacred Heart Church  
72 Washington Street  
Weymouth, MA 02188*

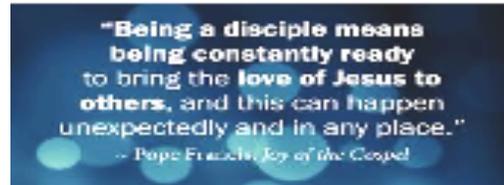


*Saint Thomas More Church  
7 Hawthorn Road  
Braintree, MA 02184*

**From our Pastor, Rev. Sean M. Connor**

*"A new evangelization is synonymous with mission, requiring the capacity to set out anew, go beyond boundaries and broaden horizons. The new evangelization is the opposite of self-sufficiency, a withdrawal into oneself, a status quo mentality and an idea that pastoral programs are simply to proceed as they did in the past. Today a 'business as usual' attitude can no longer be the case. Some local Churches, already engaged in renewal, reconfirm the fact that now is the time for the Church to call upon every Christian community to evaluate their pastoral practice on the basis of the missionary character of their program and activities."*

—Synod of Bishops, "The New Evangelization for the Transmission of Christian Faith," *Lineamenta*, #10.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

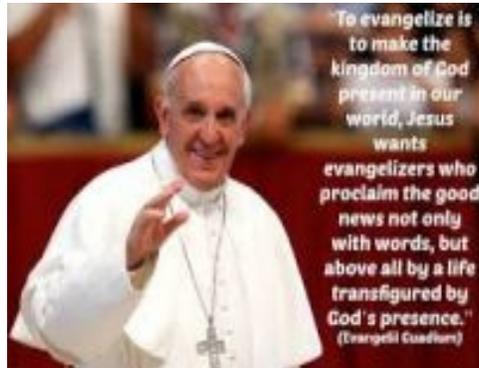
Sacred Heart Parish was established in 1869, and its parish school in 1913. Saint Thomas More Parish was established in 1938. The Parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Thomas More have long been vibrant pillars of the Catholic faith in Weymouth and Braintree. Both parishes share a rich history of Catholic tradition and community. On September 19, 2014, as part of Phase III of *Disciples in Mission*, Cardinal Seán O'Malley called our two parishes to form one Collaborative. Since that time, we have made great progress, yet we still have a lot of work to do. Many things have changed as we work together as one Collaborative of two parishes. During our first full year of collaboration, Sacred Heart and Saint Thomas More (Braintree & Weymouth) reorganized our business operations, created a central office and made changes in personnel and programming. These efforts allowed us to realize our new identity as a "Family of Faith," two independent parishes, with a school, worshipping and working together as one Collaborative. Together as one Collaborative, we are now challenged to renew and rebuild the faith of this particular community.

Though, historically, we have been two parishes, together we are one community within the local Church of the Archdiocese of Boston. Now, spiritually united, we must adapt to change into what we will become as a newly established Collaborative. Your generosity and faithfulness enable us to continue to move forward with the mission of the Church: to preach and teach the Good News of Jesus Christ. In a few years, we have formed independent parish finance councils and are continuing collaborative fiscal forecasting and planning. There is now a newly established development council. Please know that I am grateful to each of you, for your many kindnesses, your good works, example and your generosity to our parishes, especially to the poor among us. I am also grateful for your patience and prayerful support, as we complete our Pastoral Plan as *Disciples in Mission*. We are now entering into a new phase of our Catholic life as we are called to rebuild, renew and implement the *Disciples in Mission* initiative. In the writing of this Pastoral Plan, which began in 2017, it is hoped that the goals identified herein will continue to motivate and direct our Collaborative through the next three years. I am convinced that together we will plant the foundations for change and renewal. Change is not easy and we are continually challenged by the need to be changed. Our desire for growth and holiness will help us to change and make us to evangelize together. I am convinced that together we will plant the foundation for a renewal that will affect the generations that will follow us.

In His Mercy, Fr. Sean

## OUR COLLABORATIVE PURPOSE

*“It is in the parish that the faithful – the clergy, the religious, and the laity – experience Christ most fully through the preaching of the Gospel and the celebration of the Eucharist. It is from the parish that we are each called to take Christ and to bring him to friend and stranger alike.”* (APP: *Disciples in Mission*) To this end, Sacred Heart and Saint Thomas More parishes have been coupled as a Collaborative to share their resources. Together our communities will bear witness to Christ’s Light and Love in all that we do and say. We are His witnesses. We believe that *“God so loved the world that He sent His Only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life”* (Jn 3:16). Encouraged by the love God has first shown us, we, His stewards and disciples, will work together in fulfilling our common purpose to build up the Kingdom of God on earth by assisting all people to grow in their love of Christ and His Church.



## OUR VALUES

*As true disciples and good stewards, we are committed to uphold the virtues of our faith, hope, and love of Christ among His people. We receive God’s gifts gratefully through prayer and worship. We cultivate His gifts responsibly through formation and education, focused on learning how to be better stewards and disciples, sharing these gifts lovingly and justly with all people, especially those most in need.*

**-Prayer: Receives Gratefully** ~ We are a Eucharistic community that believes the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our faith in Jesus. Our worship of Christ in the Mass nourishes, nurtures, and centers our community in His Life and Love.

**-Stewardship & Formation: Cultivates Responsibility** ~ We are called to use God’s gifts in the service of His People. We cultivate these gifts responsibly through formation and in the education of the faith, teaching us how to be better stewards and disciples. We believe in Life-long Faith Formation and value the need for all persons of all ages and circumstances to grow in knowledge, love and service of Christ and His Church.

**-Outreach: Shares Lovingly in Justice with Others** ~ We share our gifts lovingly and justly with all God’s people, especially with those most in need. We are a welcoming community of His People and invite others to participate fully in His Family, the Church. We pray and work in the hope that God will lift up new priests, religious, and lay ministers from among us to serve His Church and the needs of all peoples in our midst.

**-Process Evaluation: Returns with Increase**~ The Lord has given us all that we have and all that we are. As temporary caretakers of His manifold gifts, our Lord is asking us to return these gifts with an increase. We recognize and respond to His call by giving both financially and volunteering in our Church. We cultivate our community in the soil of good works and generous giving, and so believe that, as Jesus promised, our efforts in His Name will be blessed “thirty, sixty, a hundredfold” (See Mark 10:30).

## OUR VISION

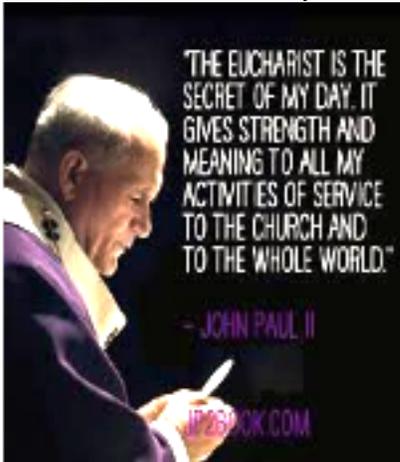
*And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions” (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17).*

As we strive to build the Kingdom of God as one family of faith in Weymouth and Braintree, in fellowship with Christ and with one another, the collaborative of Sacred Heart and Saint Thomas More parishes will become one community of believers much like that of the first Apostles, a community that:

- shares all that we have and all that we are in service to Christ and one another;
- forms intentional disciples, who live out their vocations in joy, faith, hope, and love;
- proclaims and lives the Gospel of Jesus Christ so as to draw others closer to Him;
- lives a sacramental life, centered on the Eucharist, worshiping and praising God with gratitude and love.

## OUR PRIORITIES & GOALS

**Priority #1:** *To enrich and enhance our collaborative worship and devotional practices in ways that will inspire our whole community to draw closer to Christ.*



Goal 1: Emphasize the life-transforming power of the Eucharist. (on-going)

- Provide catechesis on Paschal Mystery during liturgy.
- Send letter from Pastor to all Faith Formation and school families.
  - Invite families to regularly join whole parish in Sunday worship.
  - Explain why we go to Mass and how important the Eucharist is in their faith development and their children.

**NOTE:** In light of pandemic, live stream and post all Masses on YouTube and develop a closed-circuit TV channel for collaborative (moreheart.tv).

- Institute YouTube site for live-streaming (March, 2020)
- Initiate closed circuit tv (April, 2020)
- Celebrate a Year of the Eucharist as announced Cardinal Sean. (December, 2019)
  - Assign a Year of the Eucharist Coordinator. (December, 2019)
  - Recruit “Missionaries of the Eucharist” who pray, promote and participate in ways to increase devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist. (January, 2020)
  - Publish lives of Eucharistic Saints on front page of weekly bulletin. (February, 2020)

Goal 2: Encourage greater participation in Adoration of the Holy Eucharist.

- Publish- in the bulletin and on the website- times when/where Adoration is available throughout the week. (2017; on-going).
- Begin discussion of the possibility of offering 24-hour Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. (2022)
- Introduce a Holy Hour with Exposition, Adoration, Benediction, Reconciliation on the last Friday of each month. (July, 2020)

**Priority #1 (cont'd):** *To enrich and enhance our collaborative worship and devotional practices in ways that will inspire our whole community to draw closer to Christ.*

Goal 3: Emphasize the transformative power of the Word of the Lord. (on-going)

- Initiate a “Catechetical Corner” weekly in parish bulletin to provide explication of Mass readings (2017; on-going)
- Offer a new Scripture study: afternoon evening gatherings of parishioners to help their understanding of the liturgy: Word and Sacrament. (Advent, 2020)
- Develop a discussion board on the collaborative website, monitored by parish staff, asking for parishioners’ response to weekly homily and/or readings. (2021)
- Initiate weekly newsletters to include weekly Mass Readings. (Fall, 2020)

Goal 4: Encourage greater participation of the congregation in the celebration of parish liturgies. (on-going)

- Foster the best possible understanding, training and catechesis of worship and liturgy.
- Form a team made up of the pastor, music ministers and active parishioners to help plan liturgical events.
- Evaluate the parish liturgies through on-going surveys and discussion. (Lent, 2021)
- Identify and train new liturgical ministers at both parishes. (2017; on-going)
- Encourage a singing assembly. (on-going)
- Initiate live-streaming to our seniors, our shut-ins, nursing homes, hospitals. (Lent, 2021)
- Initiate a partnership with local cable stations to allow Mass to be live streamed beyond parish boundaries. (Advent, 2020)
- Include Mass times and readings in weekly collaborative newsletter. (November, 2020)

**NOTE:** During dispensation resulting from COVID-19 allow access to livestream for all families who are unable to participate in liturgy. (March, 2020)

Goal 5: Provide more opportunities for parishioners to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation annually.

- Include catechesis on the Sacrament at all Family Faith Formation sessions and for school families. (October, 2019)
- Celebrate the Sacrament with all FFF and school families at least once a year. (Lent, 2021)
- Publish times of Reconciliation in Weymouth, Braintree, Hingham, and Quincy on website (Fall, 2020)

**NOTE:** In response to the COVID-19 protocols, initiate safe, no contact reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in parking lot and by appointment.

Goal 6: Provide more opportunities for parishioners in need to receive the Sacrament of the Sick annually.

- Include catechesis on the Sacrament at all Family Faith Formation sessions and for school families. (on-going)
- Continue tradition of visiting priests-including SMA fathers- to assist the Pastor in celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick in all five nursing homes each summer. (2017; unable to fulfill in 2020 because of COVID-19 protocols.)
- Continue practice of annual Mass of Anointing of the Sick. (on-going, COVID-19)
- Continue practice of annual anointing of the sick (on-going)
- Continue practice of anointing the Sick in emergency situations, new residents to nursing home and hospice care. (on-going)

Goal 7: Increase participation in devotions throughout the collaborative.

*Lord, we beseech You, let Your Holy Spirit kindle in our hearts that fire of charity which our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, sent forth from His inmost Heart upon this earth and willed that it should burn with vehemence. Amen.*

- Expand communication of available devotions in weekly bulletin, weekly newsletters, on website and via social media. (on-going)

**Priority #1 (cont'd):** *To enrich and enhance our collaborative worship and devotional practices in ways that will inspire our whole community to draw closer to Christ.*

Goal 7 (cont'd): Increase participation in devotions throughout the collaborative.

- Encourage and invite renewed devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (ever-present in the Blessed Sacrament) and to Saint Michael among all parishioners. (on-going)
- Provide lay leadership team with Sacred Heart Novena and Saint Michael cards.
  - Present at the installation of lay leaders (board members, finance, pastoral council, school board and development). (November, 2020)
  - Open all meetings with the Novena and close with prayer to Saint Michael.
  - Provide extraordinary and liturgical ministers with these prayer cards, entrusting themselves to his protection and care. (November, 2020)
- Invite all parishioners, through notices bulletin, website, and social media, to pray for specific need of parishioners, e.g. parish prayer list (on-going)
- Invite all parishioners to join in an annual Corpus Christi procession on the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. (postponed from June, 2020 to 2021 because of COVID-19)
- Invite all parishioners-via newsletter and bulletin-to pray an annual Novena of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher. (moved to June, 2021 because of pandemic)
- Expand participation of members of the Sodality of Our Lady to lead parish in praying the Rosary on Marian feast days throughout the year. (2017; on-going)  
Sodality's prayers for Nursing Home residents.
- Invite outside juridical religious groups to participate in prayer and devotions of the collaborative.
  - Knights of Columbus to pray the Rosary, e.g. Fifth Sunday Devotion
  - Saint Vincent DePaul Conference to promote devotion to Saint Vincent dePaul and Saint Thomas More for the poor, widows and orphans.

**Priority #2:** *To encourage our parishioners to expend their time and talents to build the Kingdom of God in our collaborative.*

Goal 1: Recognize their personal God-given gifts and talents and the need to use them in service to God and one another.

- Sponsor a Ministry Fair. (June, 2018; 2021)
- Develop a Ministry Directory; update as needed. (June, 2018; on-going)
- Contact parishioners who identified interest in ministries at Ministry Fair. (on-going)
- Offer programs, like *Called and Gifted*, to parishioners so that they might recognize and be called to share their gifts in service to our parishes. (2021)

Goal 2: Increase community-wide presence and outreach efforts, especially related to urban development within our community. (2020-2022)

- Call forth volunteers to develop strategies that will encourage others to join our parishes.
- Develop marketing materials to promote parish worship, devotions, ministries and events.
- Conduct home visits to new families.
- Establish a team to develop "Welcome" packet for new parishioners
- Distribute Welcome packet, including annual report.
  - To all registered families in the collaborative.
  - To all new parishioners upon their registration in the parish.
- Appoint Ambassadors to particular communities, ie. Deacon Ken to reach out to residents of The Landing Apartment community.

**Priority #2 (cont'd):** *To encourage our parishioners to expend their time and talents to build the Kingdom of God in our collaborative.*

Goal 3: Provide ongoing communication/outreach/engagement with all families.

- Utilize “Gateway Moments” i.e, funerals, weddings, Baptisms, etc. to engage families. (on-going)
- Provide a three-year “parenting in faith” series for regular communication with parents from Baptism to pre-school whose children were baptized in our parishes. (2017;on-going)
- Host an annual “Anniversary Mass” and reception for all families whose children were baptized in that year. (Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 2021; postponed because of COVID)
- Provide regular communication/outreach/engagement with all families. (2019;weekly newsletter via email).
- Extend the diocesan *Transformed in Love* experience to include a collaborative Marriage Mentoring program. (Advent, 2020)
  - Identify couples to form a Marriage Mentoring Team.
  - Assign a mentoring couple to journey with each newly married couple for the year following their wedding.
- Develop a formal Bereavement program. (2017; on-going)
  - Provide in-person funeral preparation with Pastoral Associate.
  - Provide post-funeral follow-up with families.
  - Extend invitation to grieving families to join Bereavement Support Group.
- Host annual Mass for those who are grieving loss of loved one. (on-going in November)
  - For the Dead to all who lost a loved one in past year.
  - For those who have lost a child in the womb and beyond.

Goal 4: Provide on-going training of the collaborative Pastoral Council and parish Finance Councils in support of the Parish Pastoral Plan by requiring member attendance at Archdiocesan *Disciples in Mission* workshops. (on-going)

- Recruit, appoint, train Lay Leadership Councils and Boards every three years. (2017, 2020)
- Host an annual Day of Reflection for boards and councils (2017; 2021)
- Hold quarterly meetings of Pastor with boards and councils . (on-going)

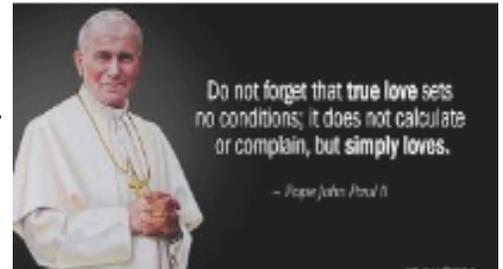
**Priority #3:** *To encourage our parishioners to faithfully and lovingly use their time, talent and treasure in service to the least among us, Matthew 25.*

Goal 1: Establish Matthew 25 Ministries. (June, 2019)

- Recruit a leadership team of volunteers to participate in the Matthew 25 Ministries.
- Train leadership of Matthew 25 ministries, using Power Point Presentation.
- Incorporate all service ministries (food pantry, Prayer Shawl, Pine Street Inn, Hospitality) into one overarching Matthew 25 Ministry.
- Incorporate the works of Sodality, Knights of Columbus, SVDP, Scouts in support of Matthew 25 ministries.
- Communicate Matthew 25 Ministry regularly and provide weekly examples of its activities in weekly bulletins and web site postings and social media. (March, 2020)

Goal 2: Invite more volunteer participation in Hospitality Ministry.(2017-2019; on-going)

- Refine and establish new leadership teams for Baptisms, First Communions, Weddings and Funerals and weekend parishes at both parishes. (2017, on-going)
- Re-tool previous style of ushers and greeters to create a new corps of Ambassadors to serve at weekend Masses, funerals and other parish events. (2019)



**Priority #3 (cont'd):** *To encourage our parishioners to faithfully and lovingly use their time, talent and treasure in service to the least among us, Matthew 25.*

Goal 2 (cont'd): Invite more volunteer participation in Hospitality Ministry. (2017-2019; on-going)

- Recruit and sustain new volunteers to expand weekly post-Family Liturgy receptions in both parishes. (on-going; delayed because of COVID-19)
- Invite all parish groups to host one coffee hour a month following the Sunday Liturgies. (September, 2020; postponed to 2021 because of COVID-19).
- Develop and update a *Hospitality Handbook*. (November, 2019; on-going)
- Invite and train members of the Knights of Columbus to assist in Ambassador Corps, especially at special collaborative events. (2020-delayed because of COVID-19)

**NOTE:** In response to pandemic recruit specialists trained in COVID-19 protocols to serve as Ambassadors. (May, 2020)

Goal 3: Encourage discipleship among our youth by inviting them to participate fully in collaborative life.

- Establish youth advisory board (December, 2020)
- Engage Young Disciples as servers, lectors, members of the choir at collaborative Masses. (Advent, 2017)
- Recruit confirmed teens to lead small faith sharing groups in Faith Formation Program (2018)
- Call forth parish youth to serve as hosts in parish events. (2017)
- Engage all youth in monthly service projects within the collaborative. (2019)
- Invite Scout Troop and Pack to collaborate with parish youth in life of the parish. (2017)
- Engage youth and their families in Food Pantry delivery service. (2020)
- Attend the annual Saint Andrew's Dinner with teens, Pastor and fathers as chaperones. (2019)
- Host a Q & A with Pastor for young parishioners (teens, young adults). (Lent, 2021)

Goal 4: Expand the reach and services of our collaborative food pantry programs. (2017; on-going)

- Move Food Pantry from choir loft to former FFF offices of STM. (Completed, 2017)
- Establish partnership with Greater Boston Food Bank to offer fresh produce, meats and dairy to those in need. (on-going; March, 2020: COVID-19 arrives, this goal on hold)

**NOTE:** Food pantry re-organized under new management as part of Mt. 25 ministries. Immediately, delivery service to needy families begun. (on-going)

Goal 5: Use the school kitchen and cafeteria to establish the "Inn at Sacred Heart." (Completed, March, 2020)

- Apply and obtain necessary state and local inspections and certifications.
- Convert school kitchen from electricity to gas; required new fire suppression system.
- Install new stove, griddle and oven.
- Install new refrigeration and freezer.
- Form teams of volunteers for each service of the Inn (e.g. planning menus, cooking, serving, set up and clean up). (Lent, 2021)
- Provide monthly community meals at Sacred Heart School. (Post-pandemic)
- Seek new sources of donations (Panera Bread, Shaw's Supermarket, Roche Bros., Stop & Shop, BJs, grants, etc.) to the Inn. (on-going)
- Invite all parishioners and school families to donate food each month for this mission. (on-going)

**Priority #3 (cont'd):** *To encourage our parishioners to faithfully and lovingly use their time, talent and treasure in service to the least among us, Matthew 25.*

*“When he presents the heart of his redemptive mission, Jesus says: “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (Jn 10:10). In truth, he is referring to that “new” and “eternal” life which consists in communion with the Father, to which every person is freely called in the Son by the power of the Sanctifying Spirit. It is precisely in this “life” that all the aspects and stages of human life achieve their full significance”*

*(Evangelium Vitae #1)*

Goal 6: Expand awareness of Pro-Life issues and the activities of the collaborative Pro-Life Committee

- Expand awareness of the Gospel of Life (Pro-Life) issues and the activities of the collaborative Pro-Life Committee:
  - Post pro-life Resources and links on collaborative website. (on-going)
  - Ensure pro-life activities are announced regularly in collaborative bulletins. (on-going)
  - Include pro-life intention in every parish liturgy. (on-going)
- Include/begin educational speaker series on bioethical/injustice/Catholic moral teaching issues: abortion legislation, end of life issues, child protection, immigration, human trafficking. (Post-pandemic)

Continue our active support of the Friends of the Unborn and Project Rachel

Provide food, baby toys and products, toiletries for Mom for Friends of the Unborn

Host a Baby Shower to benefit Friends of the Unborn. (on-going)

Continue to provide prayer shawls for Project Rachel. (on-going)

- Include Pro-Life intentions (especially that legislators will protect sanctity of life in all stages) in weekly Prayers of the Faithful.

Goal 7: Provide for the corporal and spiritual needs of the homeless, the sick, lonely and grieving among us. (on-going)

- Implement a new model collaborative Bereavement Support Group, one that invites its members to actively reach out to others who are grieving in our communities. (2017; on-going)
- Encourage more parishioners to support volunteers and Knights of Columbus in the Pine Street Inn ministry. (on-going)
- Establish a Cancer Faith Support group. (2017; on-going)
- Develop and distribute informational packet to announce parish ministry and services to local nursing homes. (Completed 2017; Update post-pandemic)
- Expand the number of trained EOMHC to make communion visits to homebound, those in hospitals, and nursing homes. (2017; on-going)
- Establish seasonal Communion Services at local nursing homes. (July, 2018; on-going)
- Expand numbers of volunteers to pray the Rosary weekly at local nursing homes. (2017; on-going)

**NOTE:** Many of these strategies have been postponed because of COVID-19.

**Priority #4:** *To improve communication among all constituencies in our collaborative with the intention of forming more intentional disciples.*

Goal 1: Use database, website, and other social media to inform and invite all parishioners and those in the larger community to participate in programs designed to reach out to those in need.

- Conduct an on-going campaign to collect accurate information for database. (March, 2020)
  - Contact all parishioners for updated contact information in the bulletin.
  - Ensure that collaborative database is updated on an ongoing basis.

**Priority #4 (cont'd):** *To improve communication among all constituencies in our collaborative with the intention of forming more intentional disciples.*

Goal 1 (cont'd): Use database, website, and other social media to inform and invite all parishioners and those in the larger community to participate in programs designed to reach out to those in need.

- Conduct an on-going campaign to collect accurate information for database. (March, 2020)
  - Ensure that requests for current e-mails are included on all parish forms (funeral, Baptism, Marriage, and registration forms).
  - Create tear-off update form in weekly bulletin to update data. (postponed; COVID)
- Create and maintain social media accounts to share the good news of our collaborative parish life, e.g. Twitter, Facebook, “flock notes.” (October, 2020)

Goal 2: Host a “Update Your Contacts” session with a gift for all who register. (Postponed, COVID).

Goal 3: E-mail weekly announcements, daily Mass readings, Mass times, Reconciliation times, and news of upcoming events to all parishioners. (Spring, 2020)

Goal 4: Establish a “Visit Your Neighbor Sunday;” distribute packets describing ministries and services of our collaborative. (Spring, 2021)

Goal 5: Increase awareness among parishioners- through bulletin, website, and social media- of monthly service projects throughout the collaborative. (on-going)

Goal 6: Ensure that the mission of the collaborative and its Faith Formation programs and school programs are aligned.

- Include Principal of the school in all staff meetings and communications. (on-going)
- Ensure religious formation of school and collaborative communities provide comprehensive, coordinated themes.
  - FFF Director and Pastoral Associate will teach seasonal lessons in school ensuring all parish youth receive the same lessons. (2019-2020)
  - Monthly collaborative service projects include school and are coordinated by FFF Director, Pastoral Associate, Principal and faculty. (on-going)

**Priority #5:** *To fulfill the call to a New Evangelization by offering more opportunities to ensure Formation is a life-long process in our collaborative.*

**Lifelong Faith**  
the theory and practice of lifelong faith formation

Goal 1: Expand and enhance life-long Catechesis and Formation. (on-going)

- Establish family faith formation for parents with pre-school children. (September, 2018)
  - Identify parent volunteer to serve as coordinator for interested families.
  - Identify appropriate catechetical resources for families of pre-schoolers.
  - Recruit and retain volunteers as caregivers for children while their parents meet to discuss resources for building the domestic church.
- Expand monthly Family Faith Formation sessions to include *all* families and parishioners. (October, 2019)
  - Develop website to include RCIA announcements and invitation. (September, 2019)
  - Update collaborative library; post periodic updates of library resources. (on-going)
- Utilize YouTube and closed circuit TV and make faith formation accessible to all families and parishioners. (March, 2020)

**NOTE:** Pandemic moves FFF lessons to virtual programming in 2020-2021.

**Priority #5 (cont'd):** *To fulfill the call to a New Evangelization by offering more opportunities to ensure Formation is a life-long process in our collaborative.*

Goal 2 (cont'd): Provide free resources to all parish families, e.g. “Dynamic Catholic,” “Word on Fire,” “Formed,” “Magnificat,” periodicals and links on website. (on-going)

- Establish Volunteer Coordinators (Fall, 2018)
- Seek out resources to encourage independent study for parishioners and families.

Goal 3: Promote the vocation of marriage and parenthood as the domestic church. (on-going)

- To include an intentional prayer during our Masses for families, married couples, those preparing for marriage, those who have suffered hardship, trial, loss or separation.
- Promote parents’ role and responsibilities as primary educators of their children in the ways of faith.

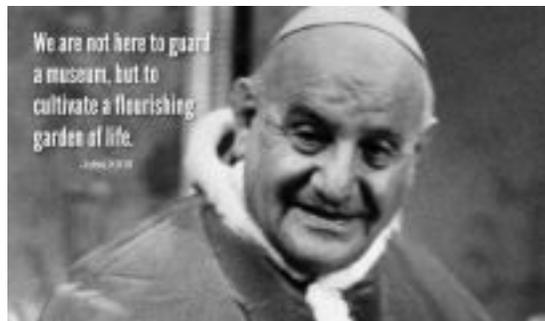
Goal 4: Host annual retreat for all parish volunteers. (2018; 2021)

Goal 5: Provide opportunities for parishioners to share their faith.

- Encourage parishioners to form small faith sharing groups. (on-going)
  - Identify, recruit and train group leaders.
  - Assist in the selection of study materials for these groups.
  - Invite all these groups to meet quarterly for sessions to exchange ideas and concerns.
- Use social media as a resource for forming on-line faith sharing groups. Provide opportunities for parishioners to share their faith. (on-going)
- Invite guest presenters to provide catechesis for parishioners of adults, young adults, teens, and little ones. (2018; on-going)
- Provide quarterly Q & A with Pastor and parishioners. (2018, on-going)

Goal 6: Host Q & A with expert panel for parishioners to discuss clergy sexual abuse crisis: “How did we Get Here” and “How does it affect My Faith?” (August, 2019)

Goal 7: Recruit and prepare parishioners to give witness talks at liturgies and/or Faith Formation Sessions. (on-going)



**Priority #6:** *To use and improve technology to evangelize and catechize.*

Goal 1: Use technology to communicate and reach out to all members of our collaborative as well as the wider local community. (on-going)

Goal 2: Evaluate and redesign and transition to new collaborative web site to reach all parishioners and those in the greater local community. (August, 2019)

- Attend RCAB training to transition from present web site server to RCAB server. (2019; on-going)
- Engage a volunteer and staff member to develop and maintain a new collaborative web site. (2019)
- Ensure that all material posted on collaborative website remains relevant and updated. (on-going)
- Transition school website to same platform as collaborative website. (2020; on-going)

**Priority #6 (cont'd):** *To use and improve technology to evangelize and catechize.*

Goal 3: Continue the work of the Sacred Heart School Technology Team.

- Evaluate, upgrade, and replace, as needed, smart technology.

- Install Promethean technology in the Learning Center and classrooms. (September, 2018; March, 2019; October, 2020)
- Fundraise Smart Technology in all classrooms of Sacred Heart School. (2019; on-going).

Goal 4: Install projector and screen in Church halls for use to enhance Catechesis, Faith Sharing Groups, and for live broadcasting of Mass, e.g., especially to accommodate crowds at Easter and Christmas. (Installed: Sacred Heart January, 2016; St. Thomas More, March, 2019, on-going for full capabilities).

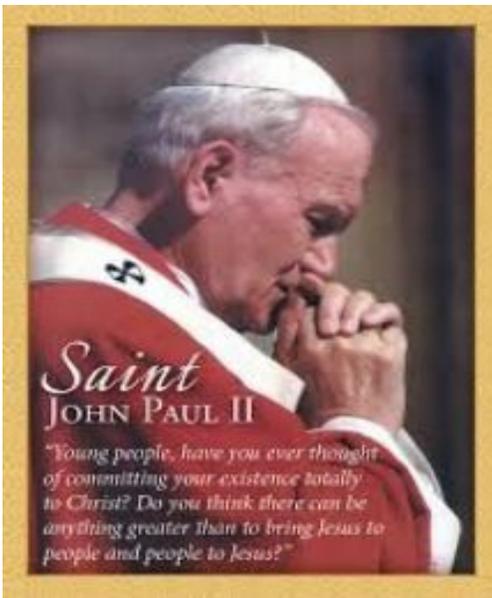
Goal 5: Evaluate, maintain, and upgrade, as needed, technology and sound systems in lower churches. (on-going)

Goal 6: Engage a volunteer and staff person to maintain a presence on social media (Flocknote, Facebook). (September, 2020)

**Priority #7:** *Increase awareness of vocations to Holy Orders, Religious and Consecrated Life, with an emphasis on vocations to the priesthood among collaborative parish community.*

Goal 1: Invite Vocation Office, area priests and religious to promote vocations among parishioners. (on-going)

- Celebrate Mass for vocations annually.
- Preach on vocations, and teach vocations at FFF sessions. (March, 2019; on-going)
- Establish relationship with a religious community. (2019)
- Invite regular presence of Oblates with school children at Mass. (virtual, 2020)
- Invite woman religious to speak on vocations and witness to FFF youth. (2021)



Goal 2: Include intentional prayers for increased vocations in all liturgies, faith formation and in our school community.

- Invite collaborative prayer groups to include prayers promoting vocations and to pray for those who live those vocations.
- Encourage parishioners to pray for an increase in vocations in their weekly devotions.
- Initiate the Vocation Holy Family Prayer visitation statue initiative. (July, 2017, on-going)
- Provide prayer cards for vocations to the priesthood in Adoration Chapels and both collaborative churches. (on-going)

Goal 3: Contact RCAB Vocation Office for priest(s) to celebrate Mass, preach, and catechize parishioners-especially our Young Disciples-concerning vocations.

Goal 4: Encourage all members our collaborative community-ordained, religious, married or single-to recognize and fully embrace their individual Baptismal vocations. (on-going)

Goal 5: Encourage parishioners to pray for married couples, those preparing for marriage, and those who are suffering trials, loss or separation in their marriages. (January, 2019)

**Priority #8:** *To ensure that staff and lay leadership teams are equipped to work collaboratively and competently.*

Goal 1: Provide collaborative staff development and formation. (Early in collaboration; on-going)

- Ensure the staff meets with the Pastor regularly.
- Provide opportunities for staff members to develop their management and leadership skills.
  - Educate staff in Total Catholic Stewardship (February-April, 2020)

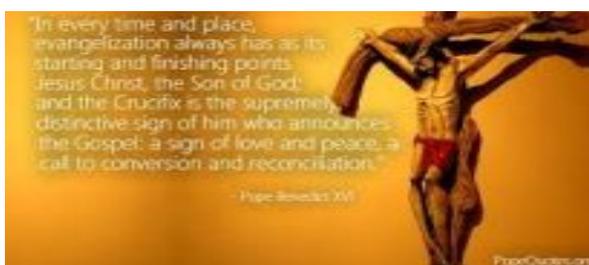
- Train teams in Total Catholic Stewardship (October, 2020; on-going)
  - Encourage staff on-going attendance at workshops, seminars and/or webinars.
  - Sponsor annual retreat days for all staff. (2018; June, 2021)
- Goal 2: Provide leadership team with development and formation. (on-going)
- Provide on-going training in support of the Pastoral Plan by requiring attendance at Archdiocesan *Disciples in Mission* workshops for the collaborative boards and councils.
  - Hold quarterly meetings of boards and councils with Pastor and pastoral teams. (on-going)
- Goal 3: Ensure all parishioners in the collaborative are aware of the Pastoral Plan and its annual updates.
- Submit updated Pastoral Plan to Archdiocese and upon acceptance, email plan to all parishioners, publish on website and place in churches. (July, 2019)
  - Ensure each parish group understands its mission and purpose within the Pastoral plan.
  - Include a review, update of Pastoral Plan in the Annual Report and post on the website.

**Priority #9:** To ensure the vitality and viability of parochial school Catholic education. (on-going)

Goal 1: Collaborate with the Pastors and Principals of all four schools in Weymouth & Braintree and the Catholic School Office. (on-going)

**NOTE:** When COVID protocol necessitated close of schools, i.e., in-school learning, the following events occurred:

- SHS went to remote learning. (March, 2020)
- Drastic change in enrollment and withdrawals in all Catholic schools, especially in the four schools in Weymouth & Braintree and the Catholic School Office. (March-June, 2020)
- Pastoral Planning Office, Vicar, Pastors of four collaboratives of Braintree and Weymouth, each with a school, met to discuss effects of pandemic and strategies to meet the state of these schools resulting from the loss of enrollment and revenues (June-September, 2020)
- Extend invitation to pastors and principals and CSO reps of four schools to work together to address current situation (June, 2020)
- Work with RCAB facility and real estate departments to coordinate a complete facility review to evaluate each school. (June-September, 2020)
- Seek counsel and approval of CSO and Vicar General, Chancellor and Supt. CSO to develop a two-campus partnership with Sacred Heart School and Saint Francis Xavier School (SHS, pre-K to Grade 4; SFX, Middle School). (May, 2020)
  - Work with Catholic Schools Office to vet and hire new administrators, faculty and staff.
  - Hire new leadership team.
- Renovate both facilities to make accommodations for the partnership and to meet current COVID-19 safety guidelines and protocols. (Summer, 2020)
  - Re-model buildings to ensure all classrooms allow for safe distancing; no-contact.
  - Purchase hand sanitizer dispensers, cleaning supplies, and other equipment to meet COVID-19 protocol in classrooms.
  - Ensure all school staff are trained in safety guidelines.
- Work with local School Department. (July-August, 2020)
  - To provide for bus transportation of qualified students.
  - To provide for the special needs of students with IEPs and 504 Plans.
- Open both campuses. (September, 2020)



**Priority #10:** To ensure the

operational vitality of facilities in both the

*parishes and school through on-going repairs, renovations, and maintenance.*

Goal 1: Develop Facilities Planning Team to support and assist the Maintenance Team. (Fall, 2019)

Goal 2: Publish annual listing of all capital improvements, major repairs, and projects. (on going)

Goal 3: Work with Facilities Planning Team and Development Board to develop a long-term plan for capital improvements. (Spring, 2021)

**Priority #11:** *To establish a comprehensive, on-going development program which will sustain the mission of the collaborative.*

Goal 1: Establish a development board comprised of members-appointed by the Pastor. (2017; 2020)

- Set guidelines for duties and responsibilities for all parish board and committee members.
- Create working groups as sub-committees to meet specific goals and objectives of Collaborative Pastoral Plan.
- Create an annual calendar for development.
- Establish a 10 year Development Plan, including major capital goals.
- Assign short- and long-term objectives to complete improvements and align fundraising goals accordingly.

Goal 2: Hire a development consultant. (2018)

Goal 3: Create a specific development plan for Sacred Heart School. (2019)

- Establish a marketing plan to support student recruitment and retention needs of the school partnership.
- Pursue additional state and federal funding to maximize short- and long-term revenue streams.
- Develop a specific communication plan to ensure new initiatives and successes of the school reach beyond parishes to the local community.
- Expand Pre-school capabilities. (2018; 2020)
- Expand communication with Alumni to increase their involvement in school development.

Goal 4: Review on-line giving program. (on-going)

- Establish a link to on-line giving registration form on website. (July, 2019)
- Invite parishioners to register or update on-line information after Mass one Sunday each month. (2018; on hold because of pandemic)

Goal 5: Ensure that parishioners are aware of the need for sustained, generous giving to further the mission and vitality of their collaborative. (on-going)

- Update lists of those receiving Offertory Envelopes.
- Ensure parishioners receive regular updates of financial (collections, expenditures, etc.).
- Frequently express gratitude for support of all parishioners via weekly bulletins and quarterly letters from the Pastor.
- Communicate on-going projects and special needs of the collaborative as they arise.

