

# **The Local Pastoral Plan for the Sacred Heart and Our Lady Help of Christians Collaborative, Newton 2019 – 2022**

## **Collaborative Mission**

The Sacred Heart and Our Lady's Collaborative is a welcoming community committed to accompanying one another in our journey as followers of Jesus.

## **Collaborative Values**

### **Encountering Christ**

- We support one another as we encounter Jesus Christ
- We strive to deepen that relationship through personal prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, and participation in the Eucharist, the other Sacraments, and the life of the community

### **Responding in Love**

- We recognize Christ's presence in our daily lives and value, cherish, and honor the gifts each brings to the community and world
- We are open to everyone's unique stories and gifts and encourage each person on their journey in faith

### **Sharing the Good News**

- We speak to Jesus' presence in our lives through our behavior, action, and the sharing of our personal faith story
- We are challenged to live out Jesus' mission and promise in 21st century Newton with generosity

## **Collaborative Vision – Summer 2022**

By the summer of 2022, our collaborative will see a 5% increase in Mass attendance from Fall 2018 levels. Our communities will be challenged to live their faith outside of Sunday Mass by engaging in one-on-one and small group conversations focused on journeying as followers of Jesus. We will prioritize a culture focused on building community and intentionally knowing those around us.

## **Collaborative Goals**

### **Goal 1: An Enhanced Sunday Experience**

- 1) In the Fall of 2019, planning will begin to make happen by June 1, 2020, an "anonymous visitor" experience. This program will have a small group of highly respected folks from outside of the collaborative anonymously come to Sunday Mass at both parishes. Not long after that, they will sit down and share with parish leaders their feedback on what is especially effective and areas that are ripe for improvement, with respect to the complete Sunday experience. They will be attentive to the impact on both those who come to Mass regularly and those do not come to Mass regularly.
- 2) Each Sunday Mass in the collaborative will be pastorally and professionally supported to realize musical excellence and engagement of the entire community.

- a. Fall 2019 - The parish Directors of Music, in consultation with the collaborative staff and parish liturgy committees, will identify the musical needs for each liturgical community in the collaborative, understanding that each weekend celebration of the Mass warrants specific attention to resources, instrumentation, and style.
    - i. The directors will create a long-term plan to support the choirs that are a primary feature of the 9:00AM and 10:00AM Masses, including the possible addition of paid section leaders, instrumentalists, and the purchase of sheet music appropriate to that ensemble. Likewise the ensembles at the 12:00PM and 6:00PM Masses will be supported so as to ensure their success (hiring of musicians when necessary to fill in gaps)
    - ii. The directors will draw more deeply on the established culture of welcome within their ministries to encourage parishioners to participate in their ensembles, thereby lifting up the musical gifts found naturally within the community.
    - iii. Given that the cantor greeting begins each gathering of the community for Mass, the directors will work together with their cantors to foster our atmosphere of hospitality and welcome through their word choice and tone.
  - b. Spring 2020 – The Pastor, Finance Councils and Directors of Music will meet with the goal of financially supporting as much as possible the funding for the professional musicians and resources needed to realize this musical vision.
  - c. Fall 2020 - Implementation of a musical vision for each weekend Mass will be in place
- 3) In the Fall of 2019, four parishioners will be identified in each parish to serve as leaders of hospitality and welcome in the community. These leaders will be responsible for:
- a. Fall 2019 – Assess the hospitality needs of the communities present at each Sunday/vigil Mass
  - b. Fall 2019 – Identify and form parishioners in each Mass community that will primarily focus on hospitality on Sundays/ vigils
  - c. Spring 2020 – Commission these parishioners to engage and connect new and long-time parishioners to the parish community
  - d. Fall 2020 – Spring 2021 – Identify and implement concrete actions at Sunday/vigil Masses that aid a sense of belonging and community. This could include:
    - i. Permanently staffed Welcome Table
    - ii. Parish office hours on Sunday/ weekends
    - iii. Freeing lay professional staff from liturgical roles on weekend masses to talk with more parishioners

## **Goal 2 – Following Jesus and Sharing our Faith**

- 1) Continued implementation of a comprehensive culture of outreach and formation in the collaborative centered on three pillars:
  - a. Evangelical Catholic’s Reach More formation experience with specific attention to the demographics of the parishes will continue with at least one training group per year in order to realize parish leaders for new small faith groups, and other evangelizing efforts.
  - b. By February of 2020 the Pastor will create a committee to evaluate the visibility and evangelizing impact of our collaborative properties, programs, events and ministries. This

committee will make suggestions to staff and collaborative leadership on how to make their efforts reach more of our parish communities as well as the greater community.

- c. Continuing to support and nourish the current Small Faith Group community by growing participation, creating new formation opportunities for leaders and giving opportunity for the groups to gather as a larger community to share the wisdom gained by each group.

**Goal 3- Realize a culture of vocation in the collaborative**

1) Our parish strives to create a culture of vocation that builds on our focus of following Jesus, sharing our faith, and creating an atmosphere of community and hospitality. In order to foster this culture, we will run the following programming:

- a. Fall 2021 – Retreat/formation experiences focused on discerning, acknowledging, and living a person’s unique gifts
- b. Spring 2022 – Events centered on different types of vocations in church life (marriage, priesthood, religious life, parish ministry, living faith in the world)
- c. Fall 2019 – Spring 2022 – Prioritize Archdiocesan marketing efforts and events focused on vocations to the priesthood and religious life, including coordinating a group to attend the St Andrews dinner.