

# HARVESTERS IN CHRIST

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## Our Collaborative Vision

To plant, cultivate and harvest fruitful encounters with the real presence of Jesus Christ.

## Our Collaborative Purpose

The Lord is not in the wind, or the earthquake, or the fire. (1Kings 19:11-13) The quiet presence of the Lord is always with us and He communicates in silence, in His Word, and in His Eucharistic sharing of Himself. The Cranberry Catholic Collaborative celebrates the ever-lovely presence of the Lord and seeks to infuse its joy into the greater gathering of the parishes of our collaborative so that the Real Presence of Jesus is more vividly and genuinely experienced. In the new evangelization we are not formulating a new mission – we are still following in the footsteps of our Lord who has gone ahead (Mark 16:7, Matthew 28:7) yet is also with us until the end of the ages. (Matthew 28:19-20)

The collaborative uses the strength and vitality of our Catholic faith to encourage, invigorate and sustain; so that those committed at the time of their Baptism, those seeking reaffirmation, those entering anew find a united community dedicated at its core and in its actions to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

## Our Collaborative Values

**JOY:** Jesus came to bring us joy and that our joy may be complete. Through the love of Christ we are becoming beacons of joy and light. God's love offers healing and hope to all persons who sit in darkness and death's shadow. (Luke 1:78-79) The light of Christ invites us to approach his mercy so that we might share in the completeness of his joy. (John 15:11) The churches of our collaborative offer a respectful and hospitable home where we deepen our reverence for God's actions in our lives and we grow in love for one another.

- A. We joyfully celebrate God's friendship and mercy through participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, service to others, and involvement in parish and collaborative activities and ministries.
- B. "How good to celebrate our God in song; how sweet to give fitting praise." Psalm 147:1 We elevate the integral role of music in our Masses and other celebrations and encourage full and heartfelt singing at all the observances throughout the Cranberry Collaborative.

**RESPECT:** As we join our three faith communities to create a unified Cranberry Catholic Collaborative, we are mindful that we will flourish best in an environment where respect and trust has been established. (1 Peter 2:17) Each community brings to the collaboration its traditions and unique perspective and through the sharing of our experiences we will grow stronger and more vibrant in our faith. (Romans 12:6)

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- A. The Collaborative Leadership Team, Parish Finance Councils and Collaborative Pastoral Council dedicate their efforts to ensure that the needs and concerns of each church of the Collaborative are equally addressed.
- B. We encourage one another to celebrate our faith by attending Mass and other services in all the churches of the Collaborative.

**FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY:** We will open wide our doors, our hearts and our minds to all those who cross our path. Through word, sacrament and service we will actively inform those interested in knowing more by growing in fellowship with each other. We extend our hands, voices, and hearts to all people to encourage others to seek the face and the friendship of God, in a missionary spirit of charity, in the light of Christ. (John 13:34-35, Matthew 28:19)

- A. We exchange greetings and initiate conversations when encountering others.
  - B. We build up the Body of Christ by avoiding and resisting opportunities to gossip or disparage others
  - C. We are resolved to approach interpersonal situations, particularly misunderstandings, with kindness and patience – not judgment
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### Our Collaborative Priorities for 2016-2018

Over the next three years, the priests, deacons and lay staff and parishioners of the Cranberry Catholic Collaborative will focus on the following three pastoral priorities and associated goals in order to enliven the vision of Disciples in Mission and foster the New Pentecost in our local church.

#### **PRIORITY: CREATING JOYFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST**

The Cranberry Catholic Collaborative recognizes true joy is found in Christ-centered encounters. Personal encounters with the living Christ, through Word, Sacrament, prayer and community are sources of holy joy. We will celebrate our joy by demonstrating to others our commitment to Christ through our actions and words with the greater community at large.

- A. **Goal:** Establish weekly Sunday Family Liturgies in the Collaborative by June 30, 2016
  - i. Focus on family centered liturgies incorporating the Lectionary for Children and homilies that interact with children,
  - ii. Use liturgical music that is child-centered, and incorporating Eucharistic Prayers for Children.
  - iii. Many of the liturgies will correlate with Generations of Faith festival themes
  - iv. Invite families to share in the liturgical ministries as lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, altar servers, ushers, and other roles

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- B. Goal:** Individuals and families that celebrate a “gateway moment” (sacraments, bereavement) will receive at least 1-2 follow-up contacts from our parishes by January 1, 2018)
- i. First communicants, Confirmation candidates, Bereavement,
  - ii. Enhanced system of tracking sacramental moments
  - iii. Recruitment of volunteers to help with follow-up
  - iv. Focus on one specific group at a time, beginning with Families of Newly Baptized:
    - a. Invite families of the newly baptized to a special liturgy on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.
  - v. Identify those parishioners with a charism or gift for welcoming or evangelization and form a collaborative-wide “Welcome Team”.
  - vi. The Welcome Team will generate ideas and implement new ways of welcoming, evangelizing and supporting newcomers in midst including developing “welcome” flyers and booklets
- C. Goal:** The Collaborative will offer 2-4 young adult faith sharing and fellowship opportunities annually by June 30, 2018.
- i. Plan social and faith building events with our "Theology with Apps" outreach ministry.
  - ii. Establish a Young Adult Group in the Collaborative to meet weekly to share the gospel for the following week and provide spiritual support for one another.
  - iii. Form a Collaborative team of to look for other faith sharing and fellowship opportunities for young adults.

### **PRIORITY- OPENING WIDE OUR HEARTS**

We are committed to opening wide our own hearts to Christ working within us to accept His will and become better disciples. Through our own transformation, others will see Christ in us and be inspired to open their hearts as well to His loving message of hope and salvation.

- A. Goal:** One to one missionary discipleship and witness training for 200-300 parishioners by June 30, 2018.
- i. Research and create materials essential to form witnesses to Christ
  - ii. Workshops to be held 2-4 times/year
  - iii. Form a collaborative Witness Team to recruit potential witnesses and to mentor and support new witnesses.
- B. Goal:** The Collaborative will identify and establish a relationship with a local or third world country sister parish by September 30, 2017.
- i. Director of Development will initiate the process of finding a sister parish
  - ii. Once a sister parish has been chosen parishioners will be invited to become involved with the support of the sister parish.

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- C. Goal:** collaborative members will provide God's comfort and care through participating in a volunteer opportunity by June 30, 2018.
- i. Form Bereavement ministry to bring Christ to those who grieve.
  - ii. Parishioners from each community can generate opportunities
  - iii. Expand and support the Parish Nursing Program
  - iv. Train and support those who serve Nursing Homes and the Homebound in how to be evangelizers and disciples in Christ
  - v. Form a Christian Service Corps for community and mission work.

### **PRIORITY- HEARING HIS VOICE**

Christ calls each of us to Himself. Through Christ's unique and individual call, each of us contribute to the body of Christ through our vocation. The Cranberry Catholic Collaborative embraces this calling through personal and purposeful celebrations with intention of creating discerning disciples.

- A. Goal:** Establish a Collaborative Vocation Team consisting of 6-10 parishioners by June 30, 2016.
- i. Provide mentoring and support for men in discernment for the diocesan priesthood, religious orders, permanent diaconate and women in discernment for religious life.
  - ii. The Vocations team will create a Vocations Cross for Priests program to run within the religious education programs. This will include Generations of Faith, Confirmation 1 & 2 and Eucharist Level 1 & 2 Classes by June 2017.
  - iii. The Vocations Team will sponsor a vocations' week program. This program will consist of witness talks from seminarians, religious, married couples and celibate singles, by Spring 2018
  - iv. Clergy will extend invitations to at least three men to the St. Andrew's Dinners each year, by June 2016.
  - v. Clergy will extend invitations to women to vocation events to the sisterhood by June 2016.

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## 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 in each of these foundational ministries of our Collaborative.

### Evangelization

- Host book discussions that focus on evangelization and forming intentional disciples
- Encourage staff, councils and parishioners to attend workshops pertaining to evangelization and discipleship, hosted locally and at the Archdiocese
- Recruit and train greeters and ushers to be welcoming and evangelizing

### Religious Education & Faith Formation

- Develop online home kit resources for Generations of Faith program
- Encourage Generations of Faith Families to attend Mass more often, especially at Family Liturgies
- Continue to build up the Generations of Faith volunteer team at Sts. Martha and Mary
- Encourage/offer formal training of catechists, such as the Theological Institute Programs at St. John's Seminary and other opportunities
- Parental Catechesis enhancement
- Begin planning for Collaborative Youth Ministry

### Vocations

- Continue to offer a weekly intention in support of vocations in the Prayers of the Faithful
- Promote opportunities for seminars and retreats focusing on marriage, priestly vocations and religious life via the bulletin, website and social media

### Active Prayer & Sacramental Life

- Offer more opportunities for prayer and faith-sharing including the Meeting Christ in Prayer program and other like programs
- Elevate the integral role of music in our Masses and other celebrations and encourage full and heartfelt singing at all the observances throughout the Cranberry Collaborative
- Create more opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in active ministry and service to others
- Regular opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration
- Continue to support and expand the Children's Rosary ministry
- Encourage parishioners to consider retreats and Cursillo as ways to deepen their faith
- Continue to promote and support the Lay Carmelites in our collaborative

### Apostolic and Charitable Activities

- Train and support collaborative ministries in the work of evangelization and disciple making

### Governance

- Improve sound system at Sacred Heart Parish Hall
- Install new light fixtures in Sacred Heart Church
- Install new lights in Sts. Martha and Mary Church
- Install new Carillon at Sacred Heart Church
- Install new outdoor sign at Sts. Martha and Mary Church
- Continue to make our collaborative buildings and ministries more accessible to those persons with disabilities
- Create a comprehensive Ministry Volunteer and Child Safety Database
- Purchase and install a visible hymn board at Sts. Martha and Mary
- Replace the boiler at St. Rose of Lima
- Expand the CAP Team (child safety) and offer VIRTUS training on a regular basis
- Develop "app" for the Cranberry Catholic Collaborative for Android and iPhone/iPad

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## Cranberry Catholic Collaborative Plan Summary

**Year 1:**

Priority	Key Strategy, Milestone or Action Step
CREATING JOYFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish weekly Sunday Family Liturgies in the Collaborative</li> <li>• Form a Collaborative Team to look for faith sharing and fellowship opportunities for young adults.</li> <li>• Establish enhanced system of tracking gateway moments</li> </ul>
OPENING WIDE OUR HEARTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and create materials essential to form witnesses to Christ</li> <li>• Form a collaborative Witness Team to recruit potential witnesses and to mentor and support new witnesses</li> <li>• Expand and support the Parish Nursing Program</li> </ul>
HEARING HIS VOICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Collaborative Vocation Team consisting of 6-10 parishioners</li> <li>• Clergy will extend invitations to at least three men to the St. Andrew's Dinners</li> <li>• Clergy will extend invitations to women to vocation events for the sisterhood</li> </ul>
OTHER INITIATIVES	<p><b>Evangelization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage staff, councils and parishioners to attend workshops pertaining to evangelization and discipleship, hosted locally and at the Archdiocese</li> </ul> <p><b>Religious Education &amp; Faith Formation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop online home kit resources for Generations of Faith program</li> <li>• Encourage Generations of Faith Families to attend Mass more often, especially at Family Liturgies</li> <li>• Continue to build up the Generations of Faith volunteer team at Sts. Martha and Mary</li> </ul> <p><b>Vocations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to offer a weekly intention in support of vocations in the Prayers of the Faithful</li> <li>• Promote opportunities for seminars and retreats focusing on marriage, priestly vocations and religious life via the bulletin, website and social media</li> </ul> <p><b>Active Prayer &amp; Sacramental Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elevate the integral role of music in our Masses and other celebrations and encourage full and heartfelt singing at all the observances throughout the Cranberry Collaborative</li> <li>• Regular opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration</li> <li>• Continue to support and expand the Children's Rosary ministry</li> </ul> <p><b>Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a comprehensive Ministry Volunteer and Child Safety Database</li> <li>• Purchase and install a visible hymn board at Sts. Martha and Mary</li> <li>• Replace the boiler at St. Rose of Lima</li> <li>• Expand the CAP Team (child safety) and offer VIRTUS training on a regular basis</li> </ul>

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### Cranberry Catholic Collaborative Plan Summary

Year 2:

Priority	Key Strategy, Milestone or Action Step
CREATING JOYFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite families to share in the liturgical ministries as lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, altar servers, ushers, and other roles</li> <li>• Identify those parishioners with a charism or gift for welcoming or evangelization and form a collaborative-wide “Welcome Team”.</li> <li>• Establish a Young Adult Group in the Collaborative to meet weekly to share the gospel for the following week and provide spiritual support for one another.</li> </ul>
OPENING WIDE OUR HEARTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One to one missionary discipleship and witness training begins via workshops</li> <li>• Sister Parish is selected and parishioners will be invited to become involved with the support of the sister parish</li> <li>• Form Bereavement Ministry to bring Christ to those who grieve</li> <li>• Train and support those who serve Nursing Homes and the Homebound in how to be evangelizers and disciples in Christ</li> </ul>
HEARING HIS VOICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide mentoring and support for men in discernment for the diocesan priesthood, religious orders, permanent diaconate and women in discernment for religious life.</li> <li>• The Vocations team will create a Vocations Cross for Priests program to run within the religious education programs. This will include Generations of Faith, Confirmation 1 &amp; 2 and Eucharist Level 1 &amp; 2 Classes</li> </ul>
OTHER INITIATIVES	<p><b>Evangelization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit and train greeters and ushers to be welcoming and evangelizing</li> </ul> <p><b>Religious Education &amp; Faith Formation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental Catechesis enhancement</li> </ul> <p><b>Active Prayer &amp; Sacramental Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer more opportunities for prayer and faith-sharing including the Meeting Christ in Prayer program and other like programs</li> <li>• Encourage parishioners to consider retreats and Cursillo as ways to deepen their faith</li> <li>• Continue to promote and support the Lay Carmelites in our collaborative</li> </ul> <p><b>Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop “app” for the Cranberry Catholic Collaborative for Android and iPhone/iPad</li> </ul>

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## Cranberry Catholic Collaborative Plan Summary

**Year 3:**

Priority	Key Strategy, Milestone or Action Step
CREATING JOYFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals and families that celebrate a “gateway moment” (sacraments, bereavement) will receive at least 1-2 follow-up contacts from our parishes</li> <li>Social and faith building events with the "Theology with Apps” outreach ministry</li> </ul>
OPENING WIDE OUR HEARTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One to one missionary discipleship and witness training for 200-300 parishioners completed</li> <li>Form a Christian Service Corps for community and mission work.</li> </ul>
HEARING HIS VOICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Vocations Team will sponsor a vocations’ week program. This program will consist of witness talks from seminarians, religious, married couples and celibate singles</li> </ul>
OTHER INITIATIVES	<p><b>Evangelization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host book discussions that focus on evangelization and forming intentional disciples</li> </ul> <p><b>Religious Education &amp; Faith Formation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin planning for Collaborative Youth Ministry</li> </ul> <p><b>Active Prayer &amp; Sacramental Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer more opportunities for prayer and faith-sharing including the Meeting Christ in Prayer program and other like programs</li> </ul> <p><b>Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to make our collaborative buildings and ministries more accessible to those persons with disabilities</li> </ul>

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*Respectfully Submitted:*

**Rev. John Sheridan, Pastor**

**Cranberry Catholic Collaborative**

Sts. Martha & Mary Parish - Sacred Heart Parish (Sacred Heart Church & St. Rose of Lima Church)  
Lakeville, Middleboro & Rochester

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