

# **St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi**

## **Braintree Catholic Collaborative**



## **Pastoral Plan**

## **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

As the Collaborative of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi, our purpose is to "build" the Kingdom of God, by sharing our abundant resources, and common geography, in order to create opportunities for all to encounter Jesus Christ in worship, sacrament, and one another. We are called to bring Jesus Christ and His Good News to friend and stranger alike within our existing parishes and into the larger community.



## **VISION**

As our patron saints, Saint Clare and Saint Francis, worked in unity to build the Church, our collaborative with pastoral guidance will continually grow and evolve while accepting all where they are on their faith journey.

We will create a community that nurtures, celebrates, and lives the sacraments so that all may develop a personal connection to Jesus and His Word.

## **VALUES**

### **Identified Value FAITH**

Our faith is a gift from God and a gift that we lovingly offer to God. As a people of faith we will:

- Thank God for and praise God for the precious gift of our faith
- Nurture our personal relationship with Jesus
- Share our relationship with Christ with others
- Offer opportunities for communal prayer and worship
- Invite our parishioners and visitors to increase their understanding of, preparation for, and participation in the sacraments

### **Identified Value INTEGRITY**

Our integrity is rooted in the Gospel and in the example set by Jesus Christ. We seek to speak and live the truth in love as we:

- Express and model respect for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death
- Treat everyone who ministers at, contacts, or visits our parishes with dignity, respect, and confidentiality
- Inform our choices with the two great commandments of love of God, and love of neighbor
- Live out the Beatitudes and participate in the Works of Mercy

### **Identified Value FELLOWSHIP**

As we grow as a collaborative, we will seek to offer the radical hospitality of Jesus Himself to all who enter here as we strive to:

- Extend personal invitations to participate in parish life and provide volunteer ministry opportunities to adults, teens, and children
- Offer activities that will be inclusive of members of both parishes
- Communicate with clarity among clergy, staff, volunteers, and parishioners

### **Identified Value STEWARDSHIP & SERVICE**

We recognize our responsibility to care for the many gifts of God's creation—our loved ones and friends, the strangers among us, the natural resources of our planet, the finances with which we are entrusted as we:

- Receive, acknowledge with gratitude, care for and share with others the many gifts – spiritual, human, natural and material - of God in our lives
- Minister to the marginalized, the homebound, and those in care facilities
- Offer food and other forms of support to those in need in our parish communities
- Manage responsibly the financial gifts given to the parish via the weekly offertory, special collections, and individual contributions
- Maintain properties and buildings, inside and out to ensure clean, safe, accessible, comfortable environments

## PRIORITIES

1. Develop and Encourage Vocations to the Priesthood
2. Strengthen Faith Formation and Education
3. Promote Outreach and Evangelization
4. Enhance Worship and Sacramental Life

### Priority 1 –Develop and Encourage Vocations to the Priesthood



### GOALS

- By July, 2017 offer two events per year that focus on fostering vocations to the priesthood
  - ❖ Invite a representative from the Vocations Office to speak to the Confirmation students in the Fall: and the middle-school students in the Spring
  - ❖ Offer a vocation presentation/workshop to adult single men of the collaborative.
  - ❖ Collaborative priests continue to encourage vocations by their example and presence in the school and Religious Education programs
- Offer intentional, ongoing, collaborative-wide support of and discernment of God's call to other vocations within the Church by September, 2018
  - ❖ Engage speakers for the school and Religious Education parents in support of their vocation and in how to recognize a vocation in their children
  - ❖ Uphold Deacons, women religious and lay ministry as vocations in the Church
  - ❖ Offer an event per year in support of the vocation of single persons (i.e Evening Prayer followed by pasta supper, movie night, a capella group, game night).

## Priority 2 – Strengthen Faith Formation and Education

### GOALS

- By January, 2018 build teams of parishioners to serve as mentors, sponsors, and/or catechists for adult faith formation
  - ❖ Strengthen our Baptism Preparation programs to include teams of parents
  - ❖ Actively recruit and train parishioners for Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and adult confirmation teams
  - ❖ Actively recruit and train parishioners to lead small faith-sharing or Bible study groups
  - ❖ Strengthen the Respect Life Program of the collaborative by increasing awareness and volunteerism
- By July, 2018 establish two programs per year for adult faith formation and/or education
  - ❖ Offer an established program with a facilitator once per year (i.e. CHRISM [**CH**ristian **R**esponsibility **I**n **S**hared **M**inistry], Catholicism, Little Rock Scripture Series) in either Fall/Advent or Spring/Lent
  - ❖ Offer the opportunity for parishioners to participate in small faith-sharing groups with trained facilitators once per year in the alternative season



## **Priority 3 – Promote Outreach and Evangelization**

### **GOALS**

- By January, 2017 strengthen and support the evangelization abilities of parishioners
  - ❖ Invite a member of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston (RCAB) Evangelization Team to offer a workshop to parishioners
  - ❖ Create an Evangelization section in the collaborative bulletins
  - ❖ Establish social media presence
  - ❖ Continue to strengthen our existing outreach to those in need through our St. Vincent de Paul Society in conjunction with collaborative clergy, staff and volunteers
- By September, 2017 create a process to reach out to inactive parishioners
  - ❖ Establish a criteria for determining “inactive” parishioners
  - ❖ Identify these parishioners using the collaborative database
  - ❖ Send a letter from the pastor, on behalf of the parish, with an invitation to an open house/food and friendship event

## **Priority 4 – Enhance Worship and Sacramental Life**

### **GOALS**

- By January, 2017 gather direct feedback on worship and sacramental experiences using pew cards with open-ended questions
  - ❖ Develop an open-ended questionnaire for pew cards
  - ❖ Create an opportunity to respond to questions via the parish website
  - ❖ Periodically publish results in the bulletin and website
- By January, 2019 establish celebrations for families in recognition of “Gateway Moments”
  - Invite families of all children baptized in the year to a special liturgy and collation during the month of October (Respect Life month)
  - Invite newly-married couples to a special liturgy and collation to celebrate World Marriage Day
  - Continue special Mass of Remembrance and collation in November (All Souls)