

THE RIVER OF DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

St. Mary Magdalen, Ste. Marguerite & St. Rita Parish
(Tyngsborough, Dracut, Lowell)

August 31, 2017
Outline Pastoral Plan

Purpose Statement

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit we seek to build up Christ's church. We work for the salvation of souls by welcoming the gifts bestowed by God upon each parish families.

Values

1. **Hospitality and Fellowship**—Ensuring friendly, open experiences for all parish members and especially our visitors and guests
 - a. We will develop a culture of inclusiveness that ensures that every encounter with others is a positive experience
 - I. We will embrace interacting in a joyful and charitable way with all who enter our doors
 - b. We will ensure that our doors are always open and welcoming to all
 - c. We will ensure that our doors do not enclose us and keep us away from others who we should be seeking to welcome
2. **Integrity**—Living and professing our Catholic faith in all aspects of our lives
 - a. We will openly hold ourselves accountable spiritually and morally
 - b. We will respect the dignity of every person
3. **Stewardship**—Understanding and realizing that all blessings come from God come and with responsibility.
 - a. We will bring our best selves to share with others
 - b. We will answer the call to be prudent and generous stewards of our physical assets by maintaining and protecting the buildings and grounds of the parishes.
 - c. We will actively share our time and talent with our fellow parishioners to enhance current ministries, create new ministries and develop programs that meet the needs of the community
4. **Communication**—Bridging differences by listening and responding with respect
 - a. We will share consistent, honest communication to encourage dialogue that will provide greater understanding and transparency
 - b. We will ensure that every voice is heard and respected
 - c. We will use welcoming words and actions, inviting all to be a part of our parish family

Vision (visualizing the future and painting it at present)

The River of Divine Mercy Catholic Collaborative is a welcoming, vibrant and joyful community. We recognize that people matter and minds, hearts and souls are fed with meaningful liturgies. We focus on our precious youth, offer faith-sustaining and inspirational life-long formation programs. We are an informed community that shares our common Catholic faith freely with others.

Priorities

1. **A culture of promoting the spark of vocations**—freely encouraging the ratification and validation of a vocational call for all persons. *And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of the ministry* (Ephesians 4:11)
 - a. By February 2018, develop and train a Vocations Team to promote a culture of vocational discernment.
 - I. By May 2018, schedule a meeting with the Vocations Office to learn more about their activities and receive resources.
 - b. The Vocation Team to build and implement programs to invite vocations and schedule a variety of a minimum of three events yearly, some of which we propose may be:
 - I. Create the opportunity to have a conversation with young men & women regarding the gift of vocation; have an event for seminarians, priests, a night of prayer/reflection (i.e. St. Benedict's Abbey) sponsored by the Men of St. Joseph by March of 2018; invite Sisters for an evening of sharing their vocation by December 2017.
 - II. Invite our high school aged young men to the St. Andrew's dinner, to ensure that a minimum of two attend by January 2018.
 - III. Welcome seminarians into the life of our parish to create bonds between our collaborative and the seminarians, with the first invitation to invite them to be part of the family faith formation in Spring of 2018.
 - IV. Cultivate a group to attend World Youth Day in January, 2019.
2. **Lifelong faith formation**—Evangelization and forming disciples of all ages. *Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.* (Deuteronomy 6:1–9)
 - a. By June, 2018, establish a program to form up to twenty high school aged leaders including high school students as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, service projects leaders and mentors.
 - I. Identify and form a committee of adults to develop future youth leaders by February, 2018
 - Develop a leadership program that forms and nurtures identified potential youth leaders
 - Identify potential youth leaders who can peer mentor by August, 2018.
 - By October, 2018, begin celebrating Mass served by the youth leaders which are

spiritually uplifting for people of all ages

- II. Develop intergenerational settings to share experiences such as: a retreat that encourages a sharing of faith, a periodic coffee hour where multiple generations share experiences.
 - b. By September, 2019, create a holistic/systematic adult faith formation program and engage people to raise spiritual awareness and ensure a full sacramental life for each of our adult parishioners, wherever they are in their faith journey.
 - i. Identify and invite 7 parishioners to serve on Adult Faith Formation Committee by October, 2017 who will:
 - Examine current parish offerings for growing disciples, such as “33 Days to Morning Glory” by March, 2018 to discern the best offerings for our collaborative to be used in faith formation
 - Identify a conversion-oriented program such as “Alpha for Catholics” by July 2018
 - Create an implementation schedule by August 2018 and invite parishioners and friends to attend Fall 2018 offerings.
 - Encourage people to learn to pray naturally by developing a program of sharing the art of prayer by June, 2019. Encourage people to enter into a deeper personal relationship with Christ through sharing the art of prayer.
3. **Vibrant sense of community**—through volunteers ensure that our parish is making a difference in the life of the community. *Love your neighbor as yourself.* (Matthew 22:39)
- a. By December 2017, develop a Community Outreach Team who will build and implement programs to develop strong relationships with individuals and families initiated through gateway moments in parish life (baptisms, weddings, other sacraments, etc.) and to invite all to remain connected to the parish family and share in the liturgy
 - b. By December, 2018, foster a thriving, inclusive hospitality program that welcomes all who enter our doors
 - c. By June, 2018, develop and implement a collaborative-wide calendar that shares all social and faith formation programs across all parishes
 - i. Create re-occurring collaborative-wide spiritual and social events that encourage outreach *across* parishes and supports collaboration and communication *between* parishes
 - d. Invite and welcome and train new volunteers to liturgical ministries by January, 2018