

“His will, not our own”

**The Local Pastoral Plan for the
LIGHT OF CHRIST CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE
Holy Ghost, Whitman / St. Bridget, Abington**

Our Collaborative Purpose

The Light of Christ Catholic Collaborative lives to convey our love of God and welcoming spirit to those within our greater community by educating, serving and evangelizing.

Our Collaborative Values

Welcoming – We warmly invite all to partake in all aspects of parish liturgies and activities.

- We extend ourselves with sincere invitations for all to be a part of our community.
- We provide worshipping environments where parishioners feel at home.
- We respect Christian traditions, values and charisms of each person.

Faithfulness - We adjust our sails and we are steadfast no matter what circumstances arise.

- We are God-centered and believe in the proverb of “His will, not our own.”
- We are joyful and comforted in our Catholic faith.
- We hold fast the tenets of the Catholic faith.

Service – We live out our call to action through involvement in various ministries to serve and support the community.

- We train and call upon our very dedicated laity to service and to initiate ministries.

Fellowship – We believe fellowship is an extension of the Eucharist we celebrate at Mass.

- We celebrate the spirit of Word and Sacrament through involvement in our collaborative and greater community.

Stewardship – We create a conducive atmosphere that promotes generosity and financial stability for each Parish. We promote generosity of time, talent and treasure.

- We cultivate and support ministries.
- We set short and long term goals.
- We support outreach projects for those that need our care and assistance.

Our Collaborative Vision

In fellowship with Jesus Christ and one another, in worship and prayer, we will welcome, encourage, educate and serve people at all stages of faith on their journey toward everlasting life. In the future we would like to have parishioners engaged in ongoing faith formation to become intentional disciples.

Our Collaborative Priorities

Over the next three years, parishioners, priests, deacons and lay staff will focus on three pastoral priorities and associated goals in order to fulfill the vision of Disciples in Mission, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan.

PRIORITY 1: Become an even more welcoming Catholic community through hospitality and shared stewardship to create disciples and spread the Word to others.

Goal 1: Establish a collaborative “Welcoming Team” of 12 people (6 from each parish) to promote hospitality and fellowship and develop a plan by Advent of 2016.

- Get a bulletin insert and personal invitations from the priests and parish to ask volunteers to come forward to a part of the “Welcome Team” from mid-September through October of 2016
- The team should have at least 1 person from Religious Ed and at least 1 person from the school
- The first meeting will take place in November 2016
- The team should develop a plan and ideas to create disciples

Goal 2: Establish a Collaborative Stewardship Team of 10 people (5 from each parish) by Pentecost 2017 to formulate a Stewardship Plan to measure time, talents, and treasures by Pentecost 2018 in order to sustain a culture of evangelization.

- Get a bulletin insert and personal invitations from the priests and parish staff to ask volunteers to come forward to a part of the Stewardship Team during March and April of 2017
- The team should have at least 1 person from Religious Ed and at least 1 person from the school
- The first meeting will take place in May or June of 2017
- The team should develop a plan and ideas to create and sustain a culture of evangelization

PRIORITY 2: Strengthen our Lifelong Faith Formation and Sacramental Life to increase our love of Christ and His Church to become parishes of intentional disciples.

Goal 1: Through continuous education of parishioners, we will add into the mix five religious educators for children by October 1, 2016.

- This is a goal that is presently active and ongoing depending on the registration of students into the Religious Education Program

Goal 2: Strengthening the Faith Formation program by have well-formed, well trained catechists, whom we are going to work with to help them along their own discipleship journey so that they can help to form disciples by October 31, 2016.

- Have at least 1 workshop to review information within the program
- Within the workshop, helping educators to continue their own spiritual growth as well as the children that they are teaching
- Have teachers attend a catechist certificate program that will be offered by the diocese will provide in 2017.

Goal 3: Increase education on the Sacrament of Reconciliation with resources from the Diocese and distributing 1000 copies by Ash Wednesday of 2018.

- Distribution through the school, bulletin and religious education
- Include small points of information in the bulletin
- Have information included in homilies on the weekends during Lent of 2018
- Have personal witnesses during Mass of peoples experience during confession.

Goal 4: Having regular adult formation for the parents of children in the Faith Formation program.

- Have at least 2 parent meetings to discuss what their children are learning and to encourage the parents in their faith journey

PRIORITY 3: Promote a Culture of Vocations to the Diocesan priesthood.

Goal 1: Establish a Vocation Team with at least five members by September 15, 2017.

- Get a bulletin insert and personal invitations from the priests and parish staff to ask volunteers to come forward to a part of the Vocation team from March through June of 2017
- The first meeting will take place in October 2017
- The team should develop a plan and ideas to promote vocations
- Promote for volunteers within the homilies for the month of June 2017

Goal 2: Foster a greater understanding of God's invitation to the Diocesan priesthood by developing a Vocation Plan through three basic categories of prayer, awareness and inviting by March 2018.

- Including items into the plan such as, but not necessary, a Guest Speaker at school and religious education, field trip to the seminary, literature sent home to families and an evening of adoration.