

*LYNN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE OF ST. MARY AND SACRED HEART  
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*"If the Church exists to evangelize, the parish is the chief venue where that activity must take place....Our parishes must be true centers of evangelization"*

*A New Pentecost, Inviting All to Follow Jesus, Cardinal Seán O'Malley*

In thanksgiving to our Triune God, the Lynn Catholic Collaborative of St. Mary and Sacred Heart joyfully present for approval our Pastoral Plan to His Eminence, Cardinal Sean O'Malley. The writing team has worked very hard over the past year to develop our vision statement, purpose, values and priorities that are explained throughout this document and very much look forward to its implementation.

The writing team wishes to thank the Catholic Leadership Institute and members of the RCAB Support team who assisted us in this endeavor. We also give thanks to the Collaborative Pastoral and Finance Councils who listened to and entered into good conversation with us regarding this plan. The team is also very grateful to the parishioners of both St. Mary's and Sacred Heart who responded to questionnaires and attended meetings to offer their input and suggestions.

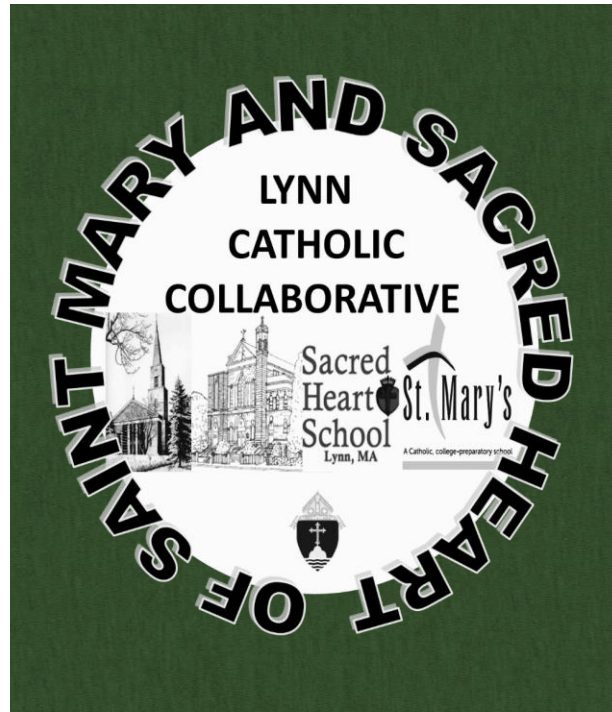
If you have any questions regarding the plan or seek any clarifications on some of the specifics of the plan, please do not hesitate to contact me and/or our Director of Ministries, Mr. Chris Carmody.

In Christ,

*Rev. Brian L. Flynn*

Pastor

Lynn Catholic Collaborative of St. Mary and Sacred Heart



## Pastoral Plan 2015-2018



St. Mary's and Sacred Heart Parishes  
and Sacred Heart School



# Lynn Catholic Collaborative

## LYNN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE PURPOSE

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The purpose of the Lynn Catholic Collaborative is to form intentional disciples who will:

- proclaim the Good News of Christ for our diverse communities;
- promote ongoing conversion;
- actively build Christian relationships with one another;
- bring people into a growing and loving relationship with Jesus Christ;
- engage with our people in full participation of the Sacraments;
- build the Body of Christ in an atmosphere of love, forgiveness and acceptance; and,
- help to heal the wounds of the city and the world.



# Lynn Catholic Collaborative

## OUR COLLABORATIVE VALUES

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### **Collaborative Unity**

Guided by Christ as we work together through open communication, transparency and respect in a way that benefits both St. Mary and Sacred Heart Parishes and Sacred Heart School.

- A. All events are open to members of both parishes and the school.
- B. We share leadership of collaborative activities and ministries
- C. We will provide a means of respectful input and communication on issues affecting the collaborative.

### **Deepening Our Faith**

Drawing on the diverse gifts of both parishes in order to enrich our spiritual life by living the Gospel and through the reception of the Sacraments.

- A. Provide a comprehensive faith formation program in an age appropriate format.
- B. Provide the resources needed to enable all to form a closer relationship with an understanding of Christ.
- C. Provide opportunities for our diverse cultures to share their gifts in worship, fellowship and ministries.

### **Improved Evangelization**

Increasing the vitality of the collaborative through radical hospitality and creative outreach.

- A. St. Mary and Sacred Heart parishes and Sacred Heart School will have an organized welcome program for new members.
- B. Parishioners will be educated to understand their responsibility to invite others to worship with the believing community.
- C. All will be encouraged to participate to a greater degree in the Christian service opportunities provided by the collaborative as a witness to their commitment to discipleship.



# Lynn Catholic Collaborative

## VISION STATEMENT

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Reawakening, growing and celebrating our Catholic Faith together; welcoming all.

## OUR COLLABORATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2018

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As we become the welcoming community that we envision, we seek to inspire a culture of vocations where our universal call to holiness is witnessed in the lives of all and is an integral part of the religious formation in the parishes and school.

Over the next three years, the Lynn Catholic Collaborative of St. Mary ad Sacred Heart Parishes and Sacred Heart School will focus our efforts on the following three priorities in order to fulfill our stated purpose:

1. Forming Intentional Disciples
2. Becoming a More Welcoming Community
3. Strengthening Our Liturgical Celebration



# Lynn Catholic Collaborative

## Priority: Forming Intentional Disciples

As we look forward toward a renewed and energized Church, we believe that all people need to recognize their call to discipleship. Jesus commanded the Apostles to go and make disciples. We are also called by our Baptism to do likewise.

- A. Staff will work with the Secretariat for the New Evangelization and others to find resources for the collaborative, which will help to form and inform the parishioners concerning the meaning of discipleship, between September 1, 2015 and December 1, 2015.
  - a. Collaborative leaders will provide parishioners with the resources necessary for a clear understanding of what is meant by discipleship.
  - b. Collaborative leaders will provide parishioners with opportunities to develop their own faith stories so that they will feel comfortable sharing their stories with others.
- B. Forty to fifty parishioners will attend three to four events, which will invite them to discern their gifts and the ways that God is calling them to use those gifts in service to others between January 1, 2016 and June 30, 2018.
  - a. Collaborative staff will work with the Archdiocese and the leaders of the various parish ministries and the school to develop these events by December 1, 2015.
  - b. Leaders of the various ministries and the school will work with parishioners to develop their areas of interest and expertise.
- C. A vocation team is established and will sponsor one to two activities per quarter which promote vocations to the diocesan priesthood, religious life and marriage, each attended by thirty to forty parishioners between September 1, 2015 and June 30, 2018.
  - a. The Collaborative Pastoral Staff will spend time in prayerful discernment to identify those members of the collaborative best suited to staff the Vocation Team in the areas of the call to diocesan priesthood, marriage and consecrated life by September 1, 2015.
  - b. Once a month, a holy hour of adoration will precede the scheduled 7:00pm Wednesday Mass with a specific intention of prayer for vocations to the diocesan priesthood.
  - c. The school will invite speakers to discuss the call to priesthood and religious life with the students.
  - d. At least one event each year will focus on the Sacrament of Marriage and ongoing formation for married couples.
  - e. The Vocation Team will be provided with a list of ideas and availability of Archdiocesan resources to help plan events in the areas of prayer, awareness and inviting.



# Lynn Catholic Collaborative

## Priority: Becoming a More Welcoming Community

- A. A joint hospitality committee is formed and sponsors one event each quarter between June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2018 to welcome new parishioners and build community within the collaborative.
  - a. The committee will be composed of members of St. Mary's and Sacred Heart parishes and Sacred Heart School.
  - b. Training will be provided in conjunction with resources from the Archdiocesan offices.
  - c. The committee will be responsible for sending letters/cards to families of newly Baptized, newly married and those who have experienced a loss.
- B. One hundred to two hundred new households register in each parish by December 31, 2018.
  - a. New parishioners will be sent a welcome packet with information on opportunities for participation in parish ministries/events.
  - b. Registration forms will be available after all Masses at both parishes to encourage those attending to register. This will be promoted by announcements at the end of Mass, in the bulletin, on the website and on Facebook.
  - c. Once a year the collaborative will sponsor a 'come and see' weekend to encourage participation in parish life.
  - d. Once a year the collaborative will offer an opportunity to welcome those who have stopped attending Mass to return. Eg. Catholics Come Home.
  - e. The collaborative will work to develop a better use of social media to reach out to young adults and those new to the community.



# Lynn Catholic Collaborative

## Priority: Strengthening Our Liturgical Celebration

- A. To provide a sufficient number of trained lectors extraordinary ministers, musicians, altar servers, greeters and collectors which represent the diversity of our community by July 1, 2016.
  - a. To recruit and train ten new lectors to serve the collaborative each year.
    - 1. Lector Handbooks will be provided for the upcoming liturgical year in a timely manner.
    - 2. Spiritual formation for all lectors will be provided each liturgical season.
    - 3. The collaborative will provide two workshops each year to help lectors develop their skills.
    - 4. The collaborative will provide opportunities for lectors to engage in Scripture study.
  - b. To recruit and train seventy Extraordinary Ministers of Communion by July 1, 2016.
    - 1. Spiritual formation will be provided each Liturgical Season.
    - 2. The collaborative will provide two workshops each year to help Extraordinary Ministers understand their ministry.
  - c. To hire a full-time Music Director with experience in a wide variety of musical styles appropriate to the Liturgy and who will work to develop a well-rounded music program to satisfy the needs of both parishes by September 1, 2015.
    - 1. Three opportunities each year will be provided to expose parishioners to different musical styles.
    - 2. To have a well-formed adult choir in each parish by December 31, 2016.
    - 3. To have a children's choir in each parish by December 31, 2016.
  - d. To recruit and train greeters and collectors for each Mass who are representative of the cultural diversity of the collaborative by July 1, 2016. Training for greeters will include spiritual formation.
  - e. To recruit and train forty two youth altar servers sufficient for the needs of the collaborative and four adult servers to assist at funerals in each parish.
    - 1. The collaborative will provide training opportunities, which will include spiritual formation for both youth and adult servers.
    - 2. We will provide opportunities for the servers to build community through social gatherings.
- B. A well-trained Liturgy Committee will be in place by June 30, 2016 to promote five to six events attended by 250 – 350 parishioners in order to educate the community on the liturgy between September 1, 2016 and June 30, 2018. Eg. A welcoming Mass for the families of the newly Baptized, married, or those who experienced loss.
  - a. Staff will meet to discern appropriate people to staff the Liturgy Committee for the collaborative.
  - b. Training will be provided as to the role of a Liturgy Committee.
  - c. Members will be expected to attend seasonal meetings for spiritual formation.
  - d. Educational materials will be provided to help the assembly understand the parts of the Mass.
  - e. A series of presentations on the Sacraments and their meanings will be held between September 1, 2016 and June 30, 2018.
- C. The priests in the Collaborative will participate in the formation of/with the liturgical ministers and liturgy committee, and will ensure continued personal formation through reflection, independent study, and archdiocesan supported learning opportunities.





# Lynn Catholic Collaborative

## FOUNDATIONAL MINISTRIES

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### Religious Education and Faith Formation

Over the next three years, we will seek to complete the following initiatives and activities in this area:

- Evaluate the Confirmation program and find or design an adequate program for the Collaborative.
- Engage Sacred Heart School families in the weekend Faith Formation program and parish activities.
- Develop additional activities, programs and experiences for families throughout the year. i.e. breakfasts, trips and retreats.
- Develop a 'small group' program for families to pray and eat together at least once a month.
- Expand the growing Cursillo community by supporting small groups and developing a monthly Ultreya.
- Develop a 'Theology on Tap' program and evaluate its effectiveness in evangelizing young adults.
- Institute small groups for newly married couples.
- Find or develop a program with helpful hints for families to establish family prayer times in the home.

### Governance and Finance

Over the next three years, we will seek to complete the following initiatives and activities in this area:

- Create a plan to deal with emergency situations that arise. i.e. extra snowplowing, roof repairs.
- Create a plan to address the upkeep of facility needs and buildings of the St. Mary's and Sacred Heart parishes and Sacred Heart School.
- Provide a plan for funding facility improvements on these buildings.
- Address the current shortfall in the budget of Sacred Heart School.
- Establish a way to provide tuition assistance to help children attend Sacred Heart School. Work to build up the Tuition Assistance Program.
- Provide a plan to address the needs of providing a meeting area in the lower church of Sacred Heart Parish. Funds provided will help to renovate and enhance the lower church to gain more usable ministry space.
- Provide funding to assist in fortifying and promoting the new goals and initiatives set by our collaborative to advance New Evangelization efforts. i.e. speakers and materials for faith formation.
- Evaluate the space used by the Food Pantries and determine a plan to best meet their needs.
- Create a plan for the use of the St. Joseph House at Sacred Heart Parish to best meet the evangelization needs of the collaborative.



# Lynn Catholic Collaborative

## Social Justice and Outreach

Over the next three years, we will seek to complete the following initiatives and activities in this area:

- Continue the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Societies at St. Mary and Sacred Heart parishes in the work of offering rental and utility assistance, providing vouchers for clothing at the St. Vincent Thrift Store and vouchers for furniture from Mass. Coalition for the Homeless, and food assistance.
- Continue the work of the Tree of Life Food Pantry which provides food to those who are eligible in Lynn on Wednesdays and Fridays; is open for the working poor on the first Thursday of the month; offers special turkey food baskets for Thanksgiving and ham baskets for Christmas; offers coats for those in need during the winter.
- Parishioners from both parishes adopt needy families at Christmas time and provide gifts for them, as well as cooperating with local agencies in the Item Santa program, which provides toys and clothing for families in need.
- In conjunction with our efforts in the areas of social justice, and outreach, the collaborative will continue as a member of the Essex County Community Organization (ECCO), which is a faith based organization that seeks to bring permanent change in our neighborhoods, city and wider community to help provide opportunities for all.

The three remaining Foundational Ministries were included in the Collaborative Priorities of the Pastoral Plan, and so were not included here.

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Chris Carmody, *Director of Ministries*

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