

St. Mark – St. Ambrose Collaborative Pastoral Plan

Purpose

Our collaborative purpose is to manifest the love of Christ and to create a shelter where all people may encounter that love. We endeavor to welcome everyone at all points in their faith journey to celebrate and live our Catholic faith, united as a diverse multicultural community.

Values

1. Love. Our vocation is to be of Christ-like service to others. We first recognize the love we receive from God, the kind of love that changes lives, and we bring that love to others.

*If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong...
If I have faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 1 Cor. 13:1A,2B*

- A. We will go out of our way to help others.
- B. We will meet people and walk side-by-side with them, wherever they are on their faith journey.
- C. We will give freely of our time, talent, and treasure to support the work of the collaborative.

2. Faith. We live as authentic Christians, with integrity in every aspect of our lives, constantly growing in faith. We provide opportunities for people to encounter Christ.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hb 11:1

- A. We will commit to developing a personal relationship with Christ through whom we have been saved.
- B. We will cultivate joyful, participatory parish worship which is prayerful and reverent.
- C. We will engage in lifelong faith formation opportunities.

3. Fellowship/Hospitality. We recognize everyone as God's child and we invite and welcome all to join us as we worship God. We foster encounters that lead to greater unity, understanding that the church is not a private club, it is a shelter for both sinners and saints.

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hb 13:2*

- A. We will strive to be united while honoring our culturally diverse communities.
- B. We will gather in groups both large and small for education, formation, and celebrations.
- C. We will invite everyone to grow in discipleship together with our parish community.

Vision

“We Pray, We Serve, We Love”

We are a community that is centered on Christ. Nourished by the Sacraments and enlivened by the Gospel, we are committed to a life of prayer. Encountering Christ in the Mass strengthens us to serve the local community and beyond. We are intentional disciples devoted to the love of Christ through prayerful liturgy, dynamic youth ministry, and a welcoming community.

Priorities

1. **Building a Unified Collaborative.** Our collaborative is incredibly rich in our diverse cultures and heritages, but we share one Faith, and this is our unity, in Christ. We will strive to create a community which will recognize, honor, and celebrate our cultures while replacing the walls that divide us with bridges that connect us.

“The Church is called to be a reflection of the Triune God. We are called to live, walk, and grow as unity in diversity.” Pope Francis (Fall/Winter 2016 issue of One Church, Many Cultures)

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. 1 Cor 12:4-6

- A. **Goal:** To enhance the Sunday experience, we will establish a hospitality ministry consisting of 40 to 50 members to welcome and to build bridges between the different communities in our parishes by June 1, 2018.
 1. Under the leadership of our pastor, Father Linh Nguyen, and clergy and with the assistance of current ushers, we will build our hospitality ministry in stages.
 1. Identify a leader for each Mass (9 people) by August 1, 2017.
 2. Leaders will recruit more volunteers to help at their mass: 10-20 people by September 1, 2017, 21-30 people by December 1, 2017, 31-40 people by June 1, 2018.
 3. Identify one leader from each parish for hospitality events before/after/outside of Masses (2 people) by August 1, 2017.
 4. Leaders will recruit volunteers to help plan and execute hospitality (10 people) by June 1, 2018.
- B. **Goal:** To organize 5 events, both spiritual and social, that will honor our different cultures while including the entire collaborative by December 1, 2019.
 1. Under the leadership of our clergy, our newly formed hospitality committee will work together to organize and execute 5 collaborative-wide events.
 1. Good Friday Outdoor Stations of the Cross to be held annually on Good Friday.
 2. Saint Mark Feast Day to be held annually in April.
 3. Saint Ambrose Feast Day to be held annually in December.

4. Our Lady of Guadalupe to be held annually in December.
 5. Vietnamese New year to be held annually in January/February.
 6. Collaborative Picnic to be held annually in the summer.
2. **Forming Disciples.** We will strive to learn more about our Faith and to grow as Catholic Christians; and we will take every opportunity to help our brothers and sisters to recognize their call to holiness and to experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; so that we all both *know about* Jesus and *know* Jesus.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you until the end of the age. Mt 28:19-20

- A. **Goal:** To provide a weekly multicultural youth mass by January 1, 2018.
1. Our current youth group leaders, Henry Nguyen and Jared Cowell, will report to Father Anthony Cusack as they work to organize a weekly youth mass.
 1. A coordinator and core team with representatives from each community will be established by July 1, 2017.
 2. The team will invite current youth group members to participate and take on an active role in a monthly youth mass at St. Mark by August 1, 2017.
 3. An additional youth mass will be added at St. Ambrose for a bi-weekly youth mass by November 1, 2017.
 4. The team will evaluate and determine a set time and location for the youth mass by December 1, 2017.
 5. A weekly multicultural youth mass will be provided by January 1, 2018.
- B. **Goal:** To host two ongoing adult faith formation programs a year by December 31, 2018.
1. Under the leadership of Father Anthony Cusack, leaders will work to provide 2 ongoing faith formation programs.
 1. Leaders will be recruited and established to oversee the two adult faith formation programs by December 1, 2017.
 2. Leaders will recruit members for each program by February 1, 2018.
 3. Forgiven – a 9 session program from Formed.org – will meet weekly beginning June 1, 2018.
 4. A parish-led weekend retreat followed by monthly meetings will begin on June 1, 2018.
 5. Group leaders will need to meet in advance to prepare for each respective program.
3. **Promoting Vocations.** The Lord calls each of us to live a life of holiness. In the ordained priesthood, a man is configured to Christ, as head and shepherd of the Church. We will strive to help everyone recognize their personal call to holiness, and we will take particular care to support young men who may be receiving a call to the priesthood.

“Young people, have you ever thought of committing your existence totally to Christ? Do you think there can be anything greater than to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus?”
Saint John Paul II

“Do not be afraid of what God asks of you! It is worth saying yes to God! In him we find

our joy!” Pope Francis

- A. **Goal:** To create a Vocations Team consisting of three members by December 1, 2017.
 - 1. Under the leadership of Father Linh Nguyen, we will recruit a team of three individuals to serve on the vocations team by August 1, 2017.
 - 1. The vocations team’s first meeting will be by September 1, 2017.
 - 2. The team will develop and clarify its mission and focus by October 1, 2017.
 - 3. A quarterly meeting schedule will be established by November 1, 2017.
 - 4. The team will schedule a meeting with Father Daniel Hennessey, RCAB Vocations Director by December 1, 2017.
 - 5. The team will engage in vocations formation/training programs by June 1, 2018.

- B. **Goal:** To promote and/or organize 10 vocation events by December 1, 2019.
 - 1. The vocations team, under the guidance of Father Linh Nguyen and Father Anthony Cusack, and in collaboration with Father Daniel Hennessey will work to organize 10 vocation events by December 1, 2019.
 - 1. The team will review the 10 events recommended by the vocations office by June 1, 2018.
 - 2. The team will develop a marketing plan for each event by August 1, 2018.
 - 3. The team will host/participate in the first 2 events by December 31, 2018.
 - 4. The team will host/participate in 2 events per quarter between April 1, 2019 and December 1, 2019. Some ideas for such Vocation Events: St. Andrew’s Dinner, RCAB Vocations Retreat, Thursday Holy Hour at St. Ambrose.