

The Catholic Parishes of Norfolk and Medfield

Coming together to know God, to love God, and to serve God

Dear Friends,

For the past year, we at Saint Edward in Medfield and Saint Jude in Norfolk have worked together on a pastoral plan. I share an overview of the plan here, along with a link to the full plan.

In this plan we create a mission statement and set goals – to improve our community, our faith and our Christian service – as individuals and as a collaborative.

We need collaboratives throughout the Archdiocese of Boston because of the dwindling number of priests. But we see in our collaborative efforts great opportunity – for better and richer parish life, for a closer relationship with God, for more outreach to share the message of Jesus that “all are welcome,” for more and better service to those in need all around us, and for more and better opportunities to know, live and understand our faith.

We have refined our mission statement to one sentence, just 48 words: **“The purpose of the Saint Edward the Confessor and Saint Jude Collaborative is to invite all to know God, to love God and to serve God so that we may be faithful to God’s plan for us in this world, and live with God forever in the next.”**

We, in this collaborative, will pursue **Lifelong Faith Formation**, a pursuit of growth in our faith for all our members, from the youngest to the oldest. We seek to *evangelize*. That does not mean we must proselytize, but that we know, love and serve God in specific ways. As the song declares, “They will know we are Christian by our love.” We will grow our service ministries at Saint Jude and Saint Edward. We will make service to others a more important part of our parish life. This might mean serving food to the hungry, helping the homeless find or build housing, visiting and sharing our faith with those in prison, supporting and bringing the sacraments to the homebound and those in nursing homes. We will focus with more fervor on the sacraments. We will plan and build for the future of our collaborative, our Archdiocese and our Church Universal. We will explore the many ways that we all might serve, to build our church and to engage in religious life.

My friends, I hope and pray that our Pastoral Plan will be a blue print for a closer relationship with God and with each other. I hope and pray that it will be a successful call to action. Please read it and share your thoughts. Let us use the days and years ahead, as God would want, in faith, hope and love.

Peace be all around you,

Fr. John Culloty
Pastor

Saint Jude Parish

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The Catholic Parishes of Norfolk and Medfield

Saint Jude Parish

Saint Edward the Confessor Parish

Pastoral Plan for July 2016 - June 2019

Our Purpose

The purpose of the St. Edward the Confessor and St. Jude Collaborative is to invite all to know God, to love God and to serve God so that we may be faithful to God's plan for us in this world, and live with God forever in the next.

Our Focus

Our focus is **Lifelong Faith Formation**, empowering one another as faithful Christians.

In *The Joy of the Gospel* Pope Francis wrote "The Parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. **In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers.**"¹

Evangelizers are followers of Jesus who use their gifts from God in their every-day lives attracting others to Jesus Christ. How we live our lives is our response to God's call for us; it is how we live in relationship to and with Jesus and one another; how we come to **know, love and serve** God in specific ways.

Our Values

Our purpose drives our **Values**. Our primary values are **Knowing, Loving and Serving God**. From these, all else flows.

Knowing God – *We believe that the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit - loves us, saves us and guides us.*

Loving God – *We believe that we are called by the Spirit to a personal relationship with God.*

Serving God – *We believe that we are God's eyes, ears, heart and hands in this world and in using them for God, we spread the Good News.*

Our Pastoral Vision

Through the workings of the Holy Spirit and our prayers and efforts, we are a collaborative community that supports growth in our personal relationship with God at every stage of our faith journey. As we help one another become intentional disciples, we give witness to our faith and share the joy of the Gospel with everyone.

- Our children, youth and adults are engaged in serving the needs of others, especially the least of our brothers and sisters.
- We work individually and with members of our faith community for social justice wherever we discern the need.
- We serve God's people and support our parishes with our time, talent and treasure.

The parishes of St. Edward and St. Jude are communities where we see Christ in one another and welcome all as Christ does.

¹ Francis, Apostolic Exhortation ***Evangelii Gaudium*** (*The Joy of the Gospel*) (24 November 2013), 28 Emphasis added.

Pastoral Plan for July 2016 - June 2019

Our Priorities and Goals

Our priorities and goals emphasize the **Lifelong Faith Formation** process which leads us to a richer sacramental life. In our sacramental life we touch the face of God leading us beyond the doors of Church to serve humanity and all of God's creation.

PRIORITY: ESTABLISH A LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION ATMOSPHERE

Goal 1: Establish an atmosphere where *faith formation* is accomplished throughout the Church year by celebrating feasts and seasons, sacraments, liturgy, justice and service, prayer and community life.

- Implement a Gospel-based program for grades 1-8 integrating the instruction with the ongoing life of each parish community as experienced primarily at Mass. (Sept 2016)
- Present three special speakers/workshops focused on issues facing today's families each year. (2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19)
- Establish a Speaker's Committee to develop at least one annual adult-centered presentation/forum on ethical issues facing 21st Century Christians.
 - Establish Committee - Fall 2016
 - Inaugurate forum - Spring 2017
- Sponsor 4 parish educational/service/social events aligned with the church calendar. (2016-17: Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Pentecost)

Goal 2: Empower parishioners to live and pass on the faith bringing new active members to our parishes.

- Invigorate the baptism programs.
 - Identify 2-3 married couples to be Baptismal coordinators. (June 2017)
 - Hold an annual reunion Mass for families who had a child baptized in the preceding year. (January 2017)
- Expand RCIA program with a target of increasing candidates.
 - Increase the current RCIA team by at least 2 members. (Sept 2016)
 - Develop RCIA communication plan to advertise in local papers and to use digital (social) media for inviting RCIA candidates. (Sept 2017)
- Expand the Lazarus Funeral Ministries at both parishes to include Funeral Preparation Teams to meet with the bereaved family, Greeters to welcome mourners to the funeral, Sacristy/Altar Servers, Coordinators for requested post-funeral receptions and Facilitators for bereavement groups.
 - Recruit and train 2 new volunteers in each parish annually. (Spring 2017, 2018 and 2019)

PRIORITY: BUILDING AND NURTURING PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD

Goal 3: Establish communities of peers where people can openly talk about their faith and learn about Catholic beliefs, worship, prayer, and living this faith in their daily lives.

- Explore programs to serve as a possible framework for these small groups and develop a plan to implement these groups within our parishes. (Spring 2017 - Spring 2019)
 - Establish an inter-parish group to select program framework. (Spring 2017)
 - Develop an implementation plan. (Fall 2017 to Spring 2018)
 - Form communities of 8-12 peers in accordance with program framework. (Fall 2018)

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PRIORITY: LOVING GOD BY SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

Goal 4: Expand participation in Christian service.

- Expand by 25% the participation in service ministries
 - Identify and quantify participation in current service ministry opportunities for teens and adults at each parish. (Summer-Fall 2016)
 - Find new service opportunities and develop plans for St Jude and St Edward parish involvement. (Winter-Spring 2017)
 - Organize “Service Ministry Sign-up Weekend” to publicize opportunities and encourage volunteers. (Fall 2017)
- Form new groups for parents of school-age children in each parish for social and service activities. (June 2017)

Goal 5: Make Vocation discernment a key part of the Collaborative’s **Lifelong Faith Formation** process, helping parishioners of all ages, especially those in high school and college, understand the variety of ways the Spirit calls each person into relationship with God and the Church.

- Incorporate vocation awareness into all aspects of parish life. (constant)
- Emphasize Vocation discernment with Confirmation students. (Spring 2017, 2018, 2019)
- Set up Priestly Vocation Committee to focus on vocations to the diocesan priesthood. (Fall 2016)
- Sponsor vocation discernment events at least once each year where participants are invited to consider their specific call and strengthen their commitment to the vocation they are living. (Lent 2017, 2018 & 2019)