

As a member of our collaborative community and as a disciple of Christ, what is your first or highest priority for your new collaborative to undertake in its mission? What else would you like the Collaborative Plan Writing Team to know?

OUR LADY OF LOURDES responses are in bold font

ST KATERI responses are in regular font

ST PETER responses are in italics

YOUTH/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAMILIES (31 responses)

- **Weekly Sunday School program – lost families when we went to monthly program**

- Teen/young adult involvement in church, community service projects, music at Mass, etc. We need them to visit service projects (ex. Appalachia, etc.).
- Create youth Mass/service similar to what they have at St. Mary's in Hanover
- Encourage more participation from younger families and youth.
- Inclusion of young people
- Also trying to blend the kids so that they feel the sense of community in religious education and social events
- Offer a Mass that is truly done with the intent to keeping the youth engaged in the entire Mass. Connect with the children.
- Faith formation (religious education) classes; if way to have bus directly to church or offer more classes on weekends. Monday difficult to have kids attend.
- Children choir/Mass/group
- sports for our youth (maybe teams)
- Youth ministry – get younger people involved (under 60)
- youth ministry
- Start a youth ministry group that includes all 3 parishes. It should meet at all 3 churches, alternating turns. Events to include all three – ski trips, water/beach trips, etc. Youth Mass Sunday @6 – 40 minutes tops – alternate churches; open to all but focused on youth; youth in charge of music/readings/everything but being the priest; only have youth ministry meetings when needed. The meetings can take place after the youth Mass when there is a specific activity, upcoming event, or speaker. Don't have a meeting just to have a meeting – that will drive them away. The events don't have to be huge always – sometimes just a campfire and ice cream, etc.
- Please keep the Youth Ministry monthly gathering. Need more things for kids to get together. Need more youths participating as altar servers
- I think it is important to focus on the youth of the parish and the young families. We need to make accommodations for the modern, hectic lifestyle of young families so that they want to and are able to participate in Mass and church activities.
- Continue including families/individuals in Masses – greeting, etc.
- We, the church, need young people and families. Invite them to volunteer – they will.

- We need to promote our church and faith to reach out to the younger generations to keep our churches going. We need more people in the age groups of 20 to 40.
 - I have stopped going to St. Peter's due to the lack of young people. Music needs to be broadened to relate to entire congregation. Music is such an important part of the liturgy that more thought should go into it. For other suggestions and ideas from a young person in the church feel free to contact me at ew342103@gmail.com
-

- *For fellowship of young adults. There seems to be not too many fellowships for people in their thirties or higher. Maybe a bible study or a group that shares the religion and a check in each week for young adults to keep their spirituality alive. All of the events are usually, from what I noticed, for couples, moms, dads or married individuals. What about those who chose a life to be single?*
- *The youth - bringing young people into activities/song/Mass as many at Saint Peter's are older but will not always be here. Please let's do whatever to involve the young people, maybe Father can occasionally visit their CCD classes. Start in the early elementary grades too.*
- *If the Catholic church wishes to continue to be viable and significant as a source of moral good, love and comfort it needs to do all in its power to inspire a younger generation to be involved in church ministries. The body of Christ needs to become an integral component of young lives, not just on Sundays.*
- *Attract young families*
- *We need to get the young people back to church.*
- *Bring more younger adults to mass! The Catholic Church is losing its young members. Why? How can we get them to join in? Family is most important and maybe we should have more family activities, without leaving out the single people. (email, Gilbert Silva)*
- *I appreciate that we have music at all Sunday Masses but I think that we need more vibrant music at at least one Sunday Mass. We need some music that is more vibrant, modern- to cater to our youth.*
- *We need to encourage young adults and young families to attend Mass regularly. Unless we do, our base will shrink and our parish community will be seriously impacted*
- *I would like to see a more active and interactive religious ed. program. Teach the children how to live a good christian life by serving others. Such as working with or visiting the elderly, working the food pantry or cleaning the church, serving at the soup kitchen, or the older children working with the younger ones. Also how do we get families back to Mass. (email, Gail Hanlon)*
- *Why are there only people of a certain age and are churchgoers the members on the team? Are we continuing the status quo or are we trying to plan for the future? We need to hear from the young who are searching for meaning*
- *Building family ministries, bringing people together, youth ministry.*
- *A segmented strategy to market the 'good news' to our youth, young adult and adults using email and instant messaging as part of a comprehensive strategy to engage and remind parishioners about the love of Christ.*

COLLABORATIVE UNITY/CLEAR VISION AND COMMUNICATION (28 responses)

- Establish sense of community in individual parishes and the collaborative as well
 - More collaborative events that benefit the unborn (example: Baby shower for Friend of the Unborn)
 - More collaborative events at St. Kateri as its centrally located and has ample parking; Bring back Jingle Bell Faire
 - Disappointed with Easter. Have always attended the triduum at OLOL. This past year we only had one day of mass at OLOL. The other 2 days were at other churches. We ended up going to a church outside of the collaborative. It just didn't seem the same not having the liturgies at our own church
-
- Creating a family environment among the three churches so it feels like one community where members are equally comfortable attending all churches.
 - Communication between the 3 parishes will be the most important thing
 - unifying our 3 parishes as one
 - That the three parishes feel as one, sharing and caring of each other
 - Keeping all three churches going!
 - Build each faith community individually and as such, grow the entire collaborative community;
 - We need more gatherings of the 3 parishes. Like when we had missions all 3 churches got to know each other. It was wonderful.
 - To continue shared Mass (i.e. Easter Vigil) to continue to share bulletin information and maybe share names of deceased at all parishes.
 - Continued cooperation and sharing among the three parishes
 - Sincere true love for its purpose to love God and our neighbors in Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Peter's and St. Kateri parishes.; a deeper understanding of how to do this in real practical ways.
 - Communication; and unity
 - I believe things are great the way they are.
 - There is still some hesitancy about blending the parishes -- the three still feel very separate -- the sharing of priests has slowed down the process of getting to know the new pastor and assistant -- although it has been a year, it feels like Fr. Joe and Fr. Michael are still new here, particularly Fr. Joe.
 - Time and patience – develop joint activities between members of each parish. Let go of individual past plans and ways of doing things. Each one of the committee (members?) must have an open mind to receive other ideas and ways with love in planning – with prayer and love.
 - Might be nice to have a Program Director for all three parishes to run book clubs, coffee hours, Peach Path walks, crafts and clubs, breakfast 1X month, etc.
 - I'd like to see collaborative social events to bring us all together
 - How great that St. Kateri is and all that work so hard to make this beautiful church a peaceful and loving parish. Thank you for that.
 - Thank you for all your efforts in trying to unite the three awesome parish communities

- I am thankful that I belong to this collaborative!!! The leadership of the priests, deacons, and lay ministries is amazing in its kindness, openness, and outreach
-
- *This weekend the Pastoral Plan writing team asked parishioners to respond to what one thing would be the first initiative the team should address? I'd suggest for those who are active in a ministry which may also function at St. Kateri and Our Lady of Lourdes, if willing, start having the ministries integrate their work. (email)*
 - *We have already spoken to Dan O'Toole regarding the collaboration of Eucharistic Ministers from our LOL and Blessed Kateri parishes to bring the Holy Eucharist to the nursing homes and homebound in Plymouth. Father Joe, Deacon Cussen and Ann Cussen have arranged for a training program to be held on 9/7 and 9/14 Hopefully, we will have additional people to help in this ministry. Since we have been the coordinator of this ministry for fifteen years, this is first and foremost for us as we move forward in the collaborative. (Barbara and John Rooney, email)*
 - *Always having the same church first is a problem whether it is in the bulletin or in services.*
 - *Thanks for your efforts! Thanks for your leadership in our collaborative. Thanks for stepping up! It makes a difference.*
 - *The collaborative parish's need to know that they must work as one unit. The collaborative must work or there will be more sell off of churches. I was talking with a deacon in the north shore. The collaboratives have to work together and not against themselves. Otherwise, the Cardinal only has one choice to make and sell off the churches. The collaborative is the last effort of the Diocese to maintain its parishes. This is why we have to bring more younger people back into the church. No one wants to see their church shut down, sold, and displaced to regional cathedrals. Let's face it, with less people attending Mass there is less income for maintenance. Neglect sets in and the church decision on selling the property has to be made. (email, Gilbert Silva)*

REVERENT and ACTIVE SACRAMENTAL LIFE; LITURGY/MUSIC (24 responses)

- **All missals in the collaborative to be the same as the ones at OLOL. If deaf people are at church they can't hear the readings or the gospel but would be able to read along in their books.**
 - **liturgy**
-
- Maybe another Mass during the week. We realize this may be difficult due to staffing.
 - Increasing prayer and faith
 - Maintain our uniqueness here at St. Kateri; Music Ministry very important
 - Kneelers like Our Lady of Lourdes has
 - Mass times
 - Continuing good liturgy;
 - Meaningful liturgy
 - Liturgy Planning Committee, not just one person, planning/running music ministry. (Self-identified former St. Peter's parishioner and "young person.")

- To bring the focus of Christ back to our altar and preach of today's problems as associated with the Gospel
- to increase Mass and confession hours
- Liturgy
- I would be very, very happy if, in the missal books, the Sunday bible readings were in St. Kateri like they are in St. Peter's. I attend both churches and when I am at St. Kateri, I really miss being able to follow along with the readings. Couldn't the Mass books all be the same?

-
- *Adoration as much as possible with parishioner sign up*
 - *A Mass schedule that is flexible – not the same Mass times at each church. An evening Mass on Sundays would be nice!*
 - *Perpetual adoration*
 - *Would like to see the church open during the day. Father Bill did it for a while and it was very comforting to be able to stop in and pray especially during difficult times.*
 - Adoration
 - *The tabernacle should be front and center not off to the side. Would like the bells to come back at the consecration of the Eucharist.*
 - *Eucharistic adoration*
 - *Make sure liturgical music praises God and is not about us. Get rid of anything Marty Haugen wrote. Stop changing the words to the psalms for the Responsorial Psalm. Why change what God wrote?*
 - *I'm a parishioner of St. Peter's and I have only 2 comments/ suggestions: Restore the Sanctity and Dignity of the Consecration. If the church still believes in Miracles and still believes that one takes place at the consecration in Mass....then RING the BELLS !!! (fire cannons) anything!! to restore the sanctity of what is taking place. I travel a lot, mostly down south and they have it right !! Obey the Holy Father - a little over a year ago the Pope asked his clergy to have shorter homilys !!! (and I know they do take a vow of obedience) but since then....every homily is 5-10 mins LONGER than they use to be. The church is losing people at every Mass and they (sadly) make no attempt to do anything to resolve it.....I think these 2 changes would help...thanks (email)*
 - *It would be nice to have Mass at a time when people who work can attend. 6:00 PM would be great. Adoration too!*
 - *Please, that the priests give homilies with stronger stances on current day's problems: 1. Abortion 2. illegal aliens 3. drugs 4. marriage outside of our church 5. drug and alcohol abuse 6. our teenagers are falling away especially college - we need the church's direction. thank you*

HOSPITALITY/BEING ACCEPTING (17 responses)

- Hospitality
- Be accepting of all people; Please keep the "Welcome" message listed in St. Peter's column in the bulletin. It is truly inspiring as an inclusive Christian message.
- warm greetings
- To make everyone feel welcome

- Creating a community that is loving and accepting of all its members. Creating an environment that welcomes new members
- Inclusion of all in our Christian community
- Welcome those who may feel excluded from the church
- Hospitality
- welcome all without judgement
- I think hospitality is one of the important parts of entering church. IT makes people feel welcome and puts a smile on their face.

-
- *In the spirit of hospitality, encourage each person at Mass to introduce themselves and learn something about the person sitting next to them at each Mass. It will help us feel more connected.*
 - *I believe to form a better community, we need to emphasize a welcoming spirit for all - new and longtime parish members*
 - *I would like to focus on real welcoming at doors of the church for each and every Mass. It would be great to have people (families) at the door who smile and are able to answer questions for those visiting. Also can different ministries speak and invite folks to become involved? Ongoing ministries available to talk in hospitality area?*
 - *My first priority would be for welcoming with sincere caring and truly give of our hearts - that we know it and others recognize it, we need to show our openness with our warmth. Thank you and God bless for all that you do.*
 - *Be welcoming and hospitable*
 - *Hospitality is the true Christianity treating people with honor and respect*
 - *Let's be known for our welcoming radical hospitality.*

DISCIPLESHIP BASED FAITH FORMATION/ADULT FAITH FORMATION/SMALL GROUP DISCIPLESHIP (14 responses)

- **Faith formation**
- **More bible studies**

-
- education, small group discussion
 - small group discussions (books after Mass)
 - Have one-time meetings for a presentation on a topic or discussion of a book;
 - Help all parishioners bring Christ into their daily lives more actively.
 - Continue to take part in adult education programs, Bible study; get to know other parishioners. I am somewhat handicapped and cannot take part in some programs offered
 - small group discussions; evening Bible study;
 - Our conversation got cut short last night, and I didn't want to leave you with the impression that I believed our collaborative should entertain the idea of a mission like New Beginnings in Norwell. What I would like to see us try is a small support group for level one (newly separated

and divorced) people to give them a place to grieve their loss within the framework of our faith so they don't feel that they have lost the support of their church at the same time that they are suffering the loss of their partner, and their sense of family. It will take preparation and training, but if the church wants to evangelize and fill the needs of people who have become alienated and stopped going to Mass, they need to address the pain of divorce, and the sense of shame and failure accompanying it. I realize you are in the early stages of the collaborative goals, and I don't expect this to be a major topic right now, but I hope it will be thought of as a future goal. Thank you. God be with you all in this important mission.

-
- *We were asked at Mass this Sunday to submit our highest priority, thus, here is mine: Faith Formation at all levels: K-12, Young Adults, Parents, and Mature Adults (email, Gale Fitzgerald)*
 - *My highest priority for the new collaborative is to practice faith. The collaborative is a restructuring which serves the best interest of the Archdiocese. The best interest of laity like myself is to not only provide me a place to worship but a community in which faith is highest priority, even first in life. A collaborative cannot serve this need, only a pastor. I've witnessed and experienced far too often good ideas, great intention, grounded initiatives die on the vine in terms of bringing faithful together and retaining them as a community. One example of this is Cursillo. Cursillo represents a regeneration of faith; day four is to be lived and reunions intended to create bonds for community. The word community may be used to describe any body of persons that share absolutely nothing in common and perform no service to each other. Faith community in the Catholic church is no different than Cursillo. The effort to retain as well as the effort to evangelize is short lived if ever it did live. What does it mean to practice faith? Well, to me it isn't relative. It is either about the other or it isn't about the heart therefore not about faith. Catholics have a beautiful faith and it works wonders when practiced. It is not enough to list a litany of laws to follow as a means to practice faith. Following the law is not the same as practicing faith. The Church has never taught the practice of faith yet it is a high priority for me and the first thing I'd like to see in our community. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion. (email, Michelle FitzGerald)*
 - *I would like for our collaborative to work to have Matthew Kelly program come to our parish. Please call me to discuss if you wish. (Judi 617-755-9033)*
 - *Just a positive note to say how much I love the seasonal small group gathering and Bible study with Father*
 - *Ministry for divorced Catholics*

APOSTOLIC and CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES/SERVICE TO OTHERS (14 responses)

- faith service in action
- Helping others with charitable giving and leadership; helping young children
- Help to the poor – serving meals, visiting nursing homes, visiting prisoners, etc.
- donating, and giving
- Helping the poor and homeless as St. Peter's already does
- Homeless; poor; handicapped; opioid addiction;
- Women's Guild at St. Kateri (organize functions) Knitting group at church (prayer shawls)
- The highest priority would be strategies to deal with all the hatred in this world, the stress and the lack of compassion towards God's children – all God's children. Our country is suffering.

- Home visits for ill and hospice
 - helping others
 - Community service
 - Help others with their needs like the elderly
-

- *To serve the poor, forgotten, and displaced and thereby evangelize and spread the good news.*
- *More ministry and outreach in downtown Plymouth*

INCREASING ATTENDANCE/REACHING OUT TO NON-ATTENDING PARISHIONERS (7 responses)

- **Bring more people back to the church**
-

- To gather more parishioners;
 - To up attendance at Mass
 - To bring more people to return to the church;
 - We need to find more ways to increase attendance at Mass and at all our events. Everything else seems to be covered.
 - If possible, increase membership of Catholics participating in Mass. So many who once came to Mass no longer go to Mass. Father Joe had a suggestion, but I don't think it's going to work. The Church, from the Pope on down, needs an infusion of new blood and new ideas. How about inviting folks who are registered here and don't attend to a special Mass of renewal ... just for them. I suspect there are hundreds!
-

- *As a community we need to evangelize. We should encourage and join each other to do so.*

RELIANCE ON PRAYER (4 responses)

- **Prayer**
-

- To pray for peace everywhere
- Prayer;
- Prayer

STEWARDSHIP (1 response)

- Stewardship

OTHER

- **Keep OLOL open for the people of the Carver/Plympton faithful. In doing this it would show the people the commitment to the collaborative to meet the needs of the communities.**

- **How can we make people realize the \$1.00 a week in the collection box is not enough to support our parish?**
-

- Speak out against Satan's disciple in the White House without mentioning his name. Turn over the records of all pedophile priests to civil authorities and may see a resurgence in church attendance