

Tri-Parishes of Brockton
Christ the King, Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Edith Stein Parishes
Pastor's office: 508-586-6491

January, 2017

Dear Friends,

It's official. Our Tri-Parishes will become a true collaborative in June. Yes, we have been functioning as a collaborative for the last 5½ years but now it will be official. All of the parishes in the various phases have been asked to embrace a new program called, "Disciples in Mission". The purpose is to move the whole Church in the Archdiocese into a mindset focused on evangelization. The idea is that we need to reach out to those who do not attend church while deepening the faith of those who do attend.

Training for this is rather extensive. It begins with pastors, parochial vicars, deacons and staff. Then the Parish and Finance Council members are invited to training workshops. A team from the Tri-Parishes would then undertake writing a mission plan for the collaborative. This would be a working plan to bring about the true mission of the Church in our area. There may be the need of hiring additional staff to bring about this mission effort. Without the training, I can only speculate on what might be needed for our Tri-Parishes to fully embrace "Disciples in Mission."

In the past 5½ years, a lot of improvements have been made to our facilities. Although they were all needed, the main focus has been on maintenance. It is now time to shift our attention towards the mission and helping us grow. We are part of an Archdiocesan effort to help all our parishes to become welcoming, vibrant places of worship and formation. The implementation of this pastoral plan began 4½ years ago and each phase benefits from the best practices of the ones who've already have trained and are implementing their own specific mission plan.

The implementation of this pastoral plan is vitally important for the future of the Church in Boston. Right leadership is an essential part of the Disciples in Mission's success. With this in mind, the Cardinal has asked that all pastors going into one of the phases resign as pastor and become administrators for the interim months. I have just done this, though it was unsettling to do so. This allows the *personnel board to consider each collaborative, what their needs are and then recommend to the Cardinal* who should lead the new collaborative. It could be the former pastor, now administrator, or someone else. I have no idea what will be decided. When I was ordained, I promised obedience to the Cardinal; as I do today. I will do what Cardinal Séan wants me to do. He may want me to start a new collaborative or to stay happily where I am. Obviously, I am attached to all of you. We have made a great community together and it would be very difficult to leave, should that be as the Cardinal would wish. I pray for God's will to be done in my life and for the Tri-Parishes.

It is hoped that the announcement of phase five pastors will be made by the end of February. Until then, there continues to be a lot of work to be done by all of us together. Let us pray for one another.

God bless you,
Fr. Joe