

# Malachi Matters



The ministries at St. Malachi that matter  
to the faithful and to our neighbors

Summer 2024

CC BY 4.0

## United and Unique

### St. Malachi and St. Patrick Are Moving Forward—Together

Fr. Michael Gurnick, Administrator

**U**nited and Unique is a key theme for St. Malachi Parish and St. Patrick Parish as we work closely together on our collaboration initiative.

As our parishioners – and most of our friends – of both parishes learned last summer, Bishop Edward C. Malesic shared his vision for St. Malachi to become an oratory (a place designated for worship and other specific ministries). The bishop directed our two parishes to begin creating a plan for sharing personnel, resources, and facilities.

Since last fall, leadership from both parishes have been meeting to explore practical opportunities for coming together while appreciating the unique qualities and contributions of each community. Through the creation of our joint **Collaboration Steering Committee**, along with eight working groups comprised of members from both communities, the exciting work continues. Our goal is to have each group share its recommendations to the general parish membership in June and then submit them to the Collaboration Steering Committee by July 1. The hard work of each Working Group has unveiled things we can do together while preserving the unique features of both parishes. These areas include worship opportunities, faith formation of children and adults, staffing needs, financial health, pastoral leadership, buildings and grounds, and ministries of charity.

For example, St. Malachi – known for the many ministries that serve the poor and hungry – will continue providing these services on Cleveland's near west side by providing meal programs and outreach to the poor. St. Patrick also has many ministries that serve the community, including a strong relationship with the Saint Vincent DePaul Society, and will continue its outreach. Some of these ministries may be joined together while others remain unchanged.

Another example of working together will be the

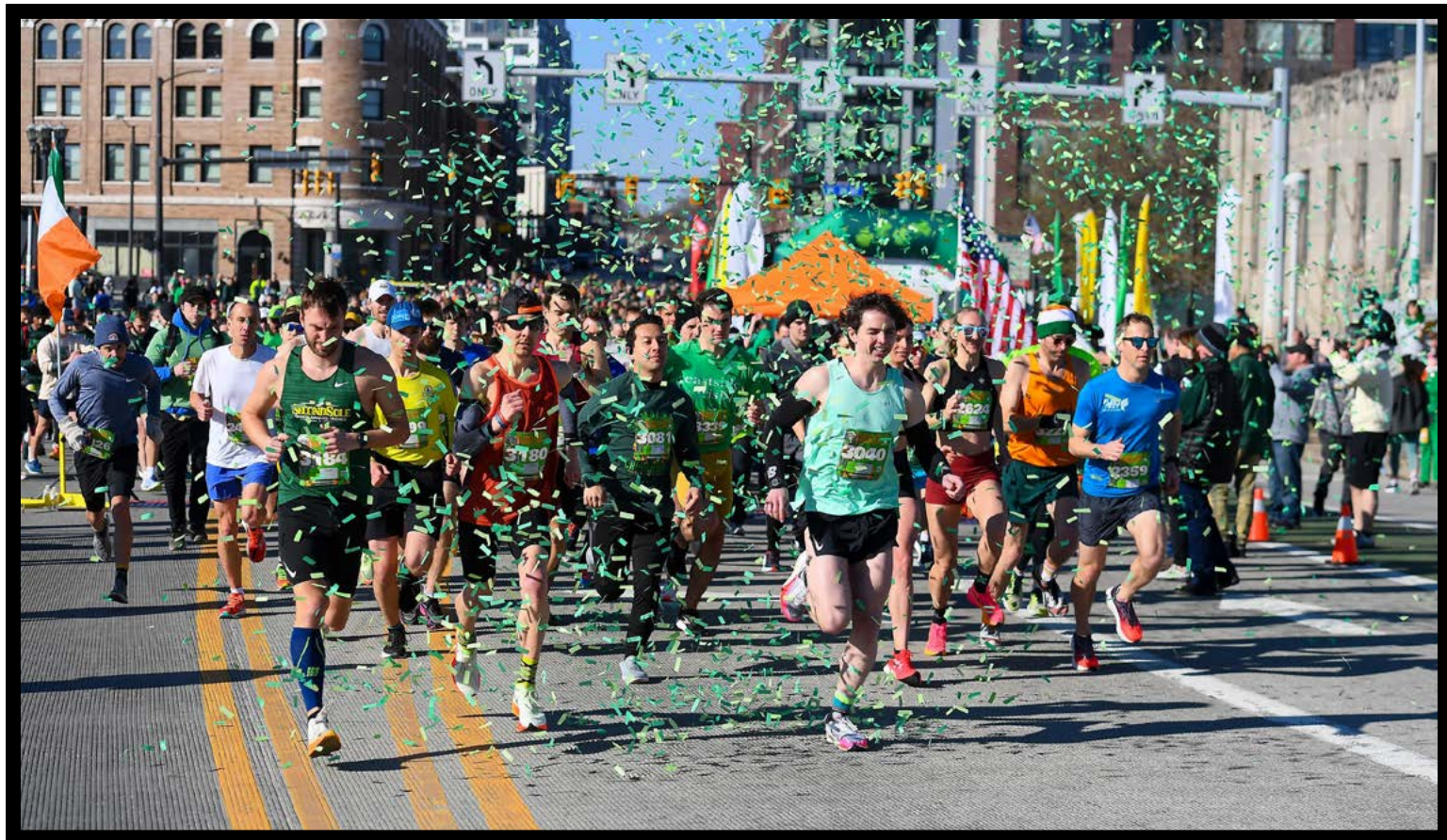
combining of staffing roles including clergy and other professional ministers who provide leadership in key areas of pastoral life. Consultative groups, especially Parish Council and Finance Council, are exploring ways of working closely together as we move forward.

Along with the theme, **United and Unique**, this new collaboration is inviting – and challenging – us to identify the differences between being a parish that *simply maintains* and being a parish *with a vibrant mission*. As with many older parishes, we once needed several buildings and spaces to carry out ministries, including school buildings and other places designed for recreation. Today, both parishes are facing incredible costs related to the upkeep of these aging buildings that once served specific purposes but now are facing substantial repairs neither parish can afford – should we continue to carry on with “business as usual.” This maintenance mode leads to an emphasis on mere survival. We continue to identify the right-sizing of our campuses for our Catholic community to serve our mission to serve, evangelize, and grow.

We also cherish the conversations we're having with neighborhood ministry partners and other groups who work closely with us in the area. Because you have remained a faithful contributor and supporter, we welcome your important feedback as options are explored and decisions are made.

Doing this work enriches our lives today and we are confident that these efforts will create a hopeful future for tomorrow's Catholics and those we are privileged to serve. Regular updates are available in our Sunday bulletins and on our respective websites.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers and thanks for your generous support as we move forward – together – “united and unique”.



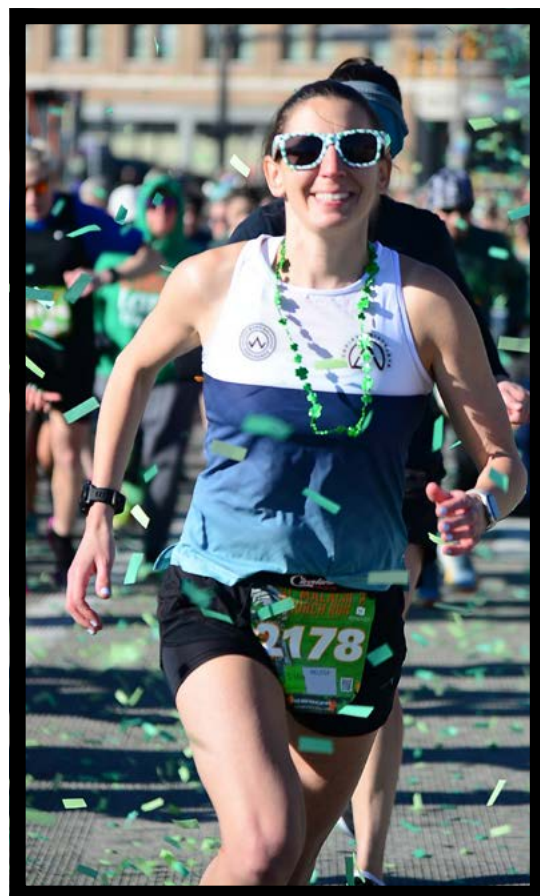
## Fun and Frivolity. Prayer and Philanthropy. Mayhem and Ministry. Yep, "The Run"

Sharon Lowe-Chapman, Chair

The St. Malachi Church Run/Walk presented by Merriman Legal on March 16, 2024 saw an impressive 36% growth, attracting more than 3,300 participants and raising substantial funds for Malachi Ministries. The beautiful morning was filled with the lively sounds of bagpipes, the captivating performances of Irish dancers, and the rhythmic beats of the St. Ed's Trash Talkers. Fox 8's effervescent Kenny Crumpton served as Master of Ceremonies, adding his infectious energy to the event, while celebrity DJ Steph Floss spun tunes and cheered on the runners at the finish line.

The day began with a well-attended Mass, setting a reflective and community-focused tone. Then, participants enjoyed a 2-mile run/walk, welcoming both humans and their canine companions. An hour later, the 5-mile run commenced, showcasing the endurance and spirit of the participants.

The event also highlighted its commitment to youth diversity, with 125 inner-city youth participating for free through the run's youth diversity program. Also among the runners were 100 members of the Golden Shamrock Club, dedicated participants who have been involved with the Malachi Run for more than two decades. This year introduced a new element: a canned food drive, where participants contributed actual food donations for the Malachi meal programs. The celebration continued at the post-race hooley, where participants enjoyed traditional Irish music by Ever Green.



2

The 46th St. Malachi Church Run/Walk will be March 15, 2025, promising another memorable event. Come join us?

Malachi Matters Summer 2024

# We Respond

## Fr. Conroy's Community Mental Health Mission

Jeanette Shemo

Each Lenten Season, St. Malachi parishioners reach beyond our borders to support agencies that care for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. This year was no different. We were introduced to Fr. Kevin Conroy and his mission, Caritas Seedling of Hope Community Mental Health.

Fr. Conroy, a priest from the Cleveland Diocese and psychologist, has been living in Cambodia for more than 18 years providing mental health services and restoring human dignity. He and his team treat approximately 150 severely mentally ill patients at a cost of \$530 per patient, per year.

Fr. Conroy celebrated Mass with us at St. Malachi while home on vacation. He shared his stories about his mission and the work he and his team are doing in Cambodia. Parishioners were drawn to his message of caring for the mentally ill and how he and his caring staff have turned lives around. When he came to Cambodia more than 18 years ago, mental health services did not exist for the poor. Those with mental illness were chained to their beds with no resources. Thanks to Fr. Conroy and Caritas Seedling of Hope Community Mental Health, life has improved for those suffering from mental illness.



During his time in Cambodia, Fr. Conroy taught M.A. in Clinical Psychology and Trauma Therapy program at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Over these years, he built a clinic and trained the psychologists and staff working with him at the clinic.

According to Fr. Conroy, "Our team is dedicated to providing high-quality and personalized care to all our patients regardless of their gender or age. We strive to create a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone who walks through our doors. And we are committed to helping each patient achieve their health and wellness goals."

Please keep Fr. Conroy and Caritas Seedling of Hope Community Mental Health in your prayers so that they can continue to serve the people of Cambodia suffering with mental health issues. Fr. Conroy relies on donations to keep the clinic going. No matter what financial shortages the clinic is facing, Fr. Conroy believes through God's grace and love that his needs will be met – and they always are!



## Contact Us

2459 Washington Ave.  
Cleveland OH 44113  
on W. 25th at Detroit

**Newsletter Editor:**  
[Newsletter@StMalachi.org](mailto:Newsletter@StMalachi.org)

**Pastoral Associate:**  
[Stephanie.P@StMalachi.org](mailto:Stephanie.P@StMalachi.org)

**Bulletin:**  
[bit.ly/StMalachiBulletin](http://bit.ly/StMalachiBulletin)  
[bit.ly/StMalachiBulletinInserts](http://bit.ly/StMalachiBulletinInserts)



[Rectory@StMalachi.org](mailto:Rectory@StMalachi.org)  
216-861-5343

Learn much more about the Ministries at [StMalachi.org](http://StMalachi.org)

# Dynamics of The Collaboration Process

## From The Inside

Pat Masterson and Stephanie Perez

These two, Co-Chairs of the parishes' joint Collaboration Steering Committee, asked for responses from members of the eight Work Groups: How have your feelings changed since the announcement to your current involvement in the work groups managing the process?

When I first heard about the oratory I was confused. What is an oratory?

Will we lose our parish personality? The best way to know what is happening with my parish is to be involved in the change. I was very excited that I was invited to be a part of a major change. The first Saturday that we all met, I felt that every person in that room is in God - - - focused on success. Every person in our group brings their A game to every meeting. The work is fast-paced, intense, and challenging. Thank God, His Spirit is ever present. I envision a stronger Catholic presence in the near West Side; I see us as missionaries right here at home; Look out world, here we come!

I have met a lot of good people from the other parish. I know that they are interested and sincere in terms of living out our combined mission. From a logical point of view, I know that we can make it work. From a "feelings" point of view, I am still very saddened that my parish will lose its parish status.

In our work group, our contact from the Steering Committee does not act as that "bridge" between our work group and those directing the process. As for my feelings about things now versus when the oratory was announced, I have mixed feelings.

I would have been a bit cynical about any process that eventually goes downtown via the Pastor for a diocesan decision where my parish has no place at the table. Despite that vibe, I see all the groups working hard, people from the two parishes getting to know one another better and a sincere desire for all to see the Holy Spirit lead us to a place where we can truly be "church" as described in "Divine Renovation". That is all grace and very good. This process will only be successful if relationships are nurtured - developed at all levels - and it starts with the Pastor.

When I first heard of the change, I was sad and wary about the success of such a process. The process thus far has been very intense and the work groups have responded to work that has to be done by deadlines. It is still a little confusing because I love meeting new people but probably it will become more united as we go along. I will continue to strive for a successful process.

## What do you get when you combine...

Charlene McElwee, Music/Liturgical Minister

- One blazing fire
- Two parishes / one faith
- Four people who fervently desire to become fully initiated into that faith
- Prayerful priestly leadership (and a trio of deacons)
- The best salvation history passages, retold by expert storytellers
- Cantors, singers, and musicians leading joyful song and raising the roof with alleluias
- A friendly and helpful welcome at every door
- Sacristans and servers behind the scenes making everything work
- The scent of our prayers rising like incense mingled with the scent of easter lilies
- A beautifully decorated and full church
- A eucharistic banquet followed by a lavish "coffee hour" that didn't break up until after midnight

### **You get the best Easter Vigil ever.**

That night, we heard the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. A young man in white meets the forlorn women coming to anoint Jesus' dead body. "Do not be amazed!" says he, from his perch in a tomb that should NOT be open. They were amazed, and so are we at the miracle of the Resurrection and the miracle of re-birth emerging in our people.

God is constantly at work and ALWAYS shows up, persistently giving us new life!

*Alleluia!*

# Our Experience as Collaboration Co-Chairs

Stephanie Perez and Pat Masterson

The Collaboration process between St. Malachi and St. Patrick Parishes has been a series of both big and small moments shared by many individuals, Teams, and Work Groups. While St. Malachi parishioners participated in their own Strategic Planning process through 2022-23, St. Patrick parishioners became aware that they too would be involved in this Collaboration in the Summer/Fall of 2023. Many (including yours truly!) began to ask "What does this mean?" and "When will this start?" Soon after, we were attending a Collaboration Workshop in November 2023 during which we met the other parishioners from both St. Malachi and St. Patrick who had all been invited to serve on the Collaboration Steering Committee (CSC). In December 2023, we were both asked to become the Co-Chairs of the CSC. So began our journey of having the honor and the responsibility of being part of the Collaboration process from its foundation.

As Co-Chairs of the CSC, we wear various hats! We are members of the Executive Team along with Facilitator Rosie Baker and Pastor Fr. Gurnick, with assistance by Christy Bartley, our Communications Support Person (along with other things!). The Executive Team meets twice monthly (sometimes more) to coordinate the overall workings of this process. We also meet with the entire CSC twice monthly to develop and plan the various steps and meetings involved in this whole endeavor. Many emails fly back and forth among all the people involved in the course of a month! In addition, as Co-Chairs, we are each liaisons to one Work Group (WG) as are the other members of the CSC.

Highlights of the Collaboration process, so far for us in 2024, have been the CSC January Visioning Retreat in which we created our Organizational Strategic Alignment Values (check out the Collaboration Corner of our weekly bulletins for reflections on these values); the March Work Group Launch Day in which Rosie led the WGs in their Team Building; and the May Mid-Point WG Presentations in which each Group reported on where they were in defining, researching, and forming recommendations for their particular topics. The generosity, commitment, skill, and creativity that the WG volunteers are putting into their assignments is truly inspiring and phenomenal! It is a privilege to be working side-by-side with these wonderful people. Honestly, it can also be a bit overwhelming at times. There are differences of opinions and questions we can't always answer. But peoples' sincerity and good will are always evident. Everyone involved is seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the search for what is truly best for both Parishes.

All in all, our experience of being Co-Chairs in this Collaboration process is both challenging and encouraging. Moreover, it has been an opportunity for growth in each of us. We have taken a "deep dive" into the various aspects of Parish Life. As our future unfolds, we are filled with gratitude and hope! We have had the chance to build community with people we may have never met otherwise. It is a call to grow in faith and trust in God BIG TIME! And it is the occasion to be tremendously grateful for all of the people working with us. We will keep moving forward!

THANK YOU ALL!



# Men's Growth

Jeff Barbalics, Registrar – Men's Retreat Team

The Male Spirit – Cleveland men's group at St. Malachi started twenty some years ago with a retreat held between Blessed Trinity Parish (Fr. Joe Fortuna) and St. Malachi (Fr. Tony Schuerger). The retreat was led, and Male Spirit started, by a Chicago-based Dominican brother, Br. Joe Kilikev-ice, who heads the Shem Center for Interfaith Spirituality.

Male Spirit is an interfaith group, welcoming men of all spiritual paths and faith traditions as well as those with personal spiritual practice or seeking spiritual community. Male Spirit honors all men, young or in one's wisdom years, rich or poor, gay or straight. All men are on life's journey and our group aims to empower men for their personal journeys, as well as their involvement in society. We strive to create sacred spaces where one can reveal one's true self without fear of judgment or rejection, where inner wounds can be healed and new directions taken.

We have several activities that support this growth.

There have been annual weekend retreats in Ohio as well as in the Chicago area, led by Br. Joe. We also have a "relaxed retreat" once a year in June on the campus of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. Several of the men participate in weekly small groups, which gather to discuss our lives, issues we are having, and to share in our journey as men in the world and how our beliefs manifest themselves.

In the past, we've also had movie nights with films of interest to men's concerns and lives, fireside poetry evenings, bowling outings, bike rides through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park as well as on Kelleys Island, and a monthly meal as a group for fellowship.

Our next event is a weekend retreat – "Be Strong, Take Heart" – Nov. 1-3 – Plano IL.

Join us!

[ShemCenter.org/MaleSpiritRetreat2024](https://ShemCenter.org/MaleSpiritRetreat2024)

Malachi Matters Summer 2024

The 1947 St. Malachi Parish "Annual Bazaar" had amusements, rides, refreshments, and a raffle prize: a 1947 Pontiac coupe. Tickets were \$0.25!

## Did You Know?

2459 Washington Ave.  
Cleveland OH 44113

St. Malachi  
Parish

Celebrating More  
Than 150 Years of  
Faithful Service in  
the Old Angle!



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Permit No. 688