

St. Mary R.C. Church

*A Stewardship Community…Sharing Time, Talent and Treasure*

25 Sherman Street, Bridgeport, CT. 06608

Diocese of Bridgeport Parish Pastoral Plan

“Building a Bridge to the Future”

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| **Part One: Introductory Information**  |

**Pastor:** Rev. Rolando Torres, Pastor

**Date:** June 4, 2017

**Meeting Dates:**

- March 12, 2016 - April 20, 2016 - May 4, 2016 - July 20, 2016

**Parish Task Force Members**

Rev. Rolando Torres, Pastor Reynaldo Olavarria, Deacon

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**Signature of Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **Pastoral Challenge # 1: Parish Goal and Action Step(s)** |

1. **Pastoral Challenge to be addressed:** Evangelization and and family life

*We recognize the importance of parents supporting their children in learning and practicing their faith in order to deepen their relationship with the Lord.*

1. There must be a deliberate, clear and authentic outreach to our youth to foster spiritual growth.
2. Must encourage and engage parents in the moral and liturgical education of our youth.
3. Must recognize the need to examine flexible hours for classes, events and meetings for the youth that will also work for the parents/guardians. Many are dependant on the parents.
4. **Rational of Choosing this Priority Area:**

Recruiting and sustaining interest and growth of our youth group was identified by our parishioners as most challenging with 61% of the votes.

1. **Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:**

Renew Youth Group Ministry by providing new education and developing creative ways to engage the youth and sustain participation and spiritual growth.

1. **Action Step #1 to achieve the goal:**
* Conduct survey and/or focus groups with both parents and youth to better understand lack of engagement and participation, and interests. It’s important to hear directly from them.

**Timeline for completion:**

**Responsible person/Task Force:** Task Force

1. **Action Step #2 to achieve the goal:**
* Promote, market and recruite new members.
* Schedule movie nights, family concerts
* Explore creating a “safe” social medica site/web page featuring sites specific to teens and young adults. Including the option to join the meetings via online/web if unable to physically attend. This will also enable other youth groups to join together share religious learnings/education, event plannings and events, volunteering etc…

**Timeline for completion:**

**Responsible person/Task Force:** Rev. Rolando Torres, Youth Group, Volunteers

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| **Pastoral Challenge # 2: Parish Goal and Action Step(s)** |

1. **Pastoral Challenge to be addressed:** Liturgy and Volunteer

*Embrace, welcome and engage new volunteers to join different missionary groups and increase volunteerism (i.e. prayer group, ministers of liturgy, eucharistic ministers, hospitality ministers, etc…) stengthening our community of stewardship.*

1. **Rational of Choosing this Priority Area:**

Second most challenging area identified by our parishioners with 30% of the votes.

1. **Statement of the Second Goal to be achieved:**

Grow missionary groups by providing awareness, understanding and educating on commitment and responsibilities and of specific group. Sustain active volunteers by providing at least one annual retreat for spiritual renewal.

**Action Step #1 to achieve the goal:**

* Conduct missionary groups fair/workshop at least two times a year for parishionrs to attend and learn about the different missionary groups.
* Annual retreat for spiritual renewal.

**Timeline for completion:**

**Responsible person/Task Force:** Rev. Rolando Torres/Missionary Group Members

**Action Step #2 to achieve the goal:**

* Plan calendar of events quarterly to allow volunteers to prepare and adhere to commitment.

**Timeline for completion:**

**Responsible person/Task Force:** Rev. Rolando Torres/Missionary Group Members

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| **Temporalities and Administrative Challenge** |

 **Buidings and Facilities Finances**

 **Community Life**

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**Action steps:**

* Continue to foster a Stewardship Community
* Embrace and promote ethnic, cultural and generational diversity of our parish community
* Create welcoming and hospitable environment
* Fellowship (i.e. Sunday restaurant after masses offering a space where the parish community comes together to built fellowship)
* Partner and collaborate with area parishes (i.e. Procession on Good Friday), retreats.

**Timeline for completion:** On-going

**Responsible person/Task Force:** Rev. Rolando Torres/Missionary Group Members