

“Building a Bridge to the Future”

2016-2018 Parish Pastoral Plan

For the last nine months, all parishes in the Diocese have been participating in a pastoral planning process, arising out of Synod 2014, building on the good works already present, responding to challenges to be addressed, and laying out a roadmap for parish vitality. Members of our parish Planning Task Force have identified priorities on which the parish will focus in the coming two years.

Synod 2014 identified five pastoral challenge areas: **Liturgy and Worship, Family Life, Evangelization, Leadership, and Catechesis and Education.** In addition, Bishop Caggiano asked each parish to look at the following three administrative areas: **Finances, Buildings and Facilities, and Community Life.** Parishes were asked to choose two of the five pastoral challenge areas, and one of the three administrative areas.

The priorities areas, rationale and action steps, identified by the Planning Task Force, and approved by Bishop Caggiano are found on the following pages.

Further details about the pastoral plan for the parish are available through members of the Planning Task Force, Parish Council members, and on our website. All pastoral plans across the Diocese will be posted in December on the Diocesan website: www.bridgeportdiocese.com/strategic-planning/home.

In a special way, I would like to thank those Planning Task Force members who gave of their time and effort over the last nine months to work on this plan.

We have great reason to hope for the future of our Diocese and The Cathedral Parish. I urge all of us to become involved in efforts to fulfill the goals established by the Planning Task Force. Our plan is a work in progress. At the end of the first year, we will evaluate the goals and make revisions as objectives are met and other needs arise.

May God continue to bless this parish and all members of the parish community.

Father Ringley

Pastoral Plan for The Cathedral Parish

Pastoral Challenge to be addressed: Evangelization and sacramental Life.

Rationale: We consider it imperative that parents and children learn and practice the Faith together.

Goal to be achieved: Increase the number of disciples of Christ in our parish.

- a. **Action Step # 1 to achieve Goal:**
All sacramental preparation involves parents and children together.
- b. **Action Step #2 to achieve Goal:**
All who request sacraments meet with a clergyman first who assesses all their sacramental needs, not only that requested.
- c. **Action Step #3 to achieve Goal:**
All who request sacraments are required to attend Mass every Sunday during the time of preparation (at least three months). This requirement assures that those who receive the sacraments have some intention of living the Catholic life.
- d. **Action Step #4 to achieve Goal:**
The Sacrament of Confession is offered, and utilized, every day of the week.

Pastoral Challenge to be addressed: Increase offertory and financial support of the parish.

Rationale: We have had many needed repairs done to the buildings in the last two years, and face some significant repair work, particularly to the St. Patrick steeple.

Goal to be achieved:

- a. **Action Step # 1 to achieve Goal:**
Propose and develop a plan for an annual Christmas collection as successfully done by several other parishes in the diocese.
- b. **Action Step #2 to achieve Goal:**
Increase offertory, especially among the Spanish speaking community. We are targeting community leaders and developing strategies to educate and inspire a stronger financial commitment to the parish.
- c. **Action Step #3 to achieve Goal:**
We have reduced spending and continue to work with the energy companies and construction companies to minimize our expenditures.

d. Action Step #4 to achieve Goal:

Continue to develop and promote our two major fundraising programs for the year, The Pasta Dinner Dance in the Fall, and International Dinner in the Spring.

Administrative Challenge to be addressed: Buildings and maintenance.

Rationale: Aging buildings and deferred maintenance issues must be addressed.

Statement of the Third Goal: Our primary concern is the steeple at St. Patrick's which needs at least two to three hundred thousand dollars of work.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve Goal:

We are investigating ways of acquiring grants and gifts as well as major fundraising efforts over an extended period to raise the necessary funds.

b. Action Step #2 to achieve Third Goal:

We are gathering estimates and creative solutions from removal of the steeple to a full-blown restoration. What we do will, in part, be determined by long range plans for the church building.

c. Action Step# 3 to achieve Third Goal:

Establish a committee to focus only on this issue and propose viable solutions.