

# Diocese of Bridgeport Parish Pastoral Plan “Building a Bridge to the Future”

## Part One: Introductory Information

**Parish:**

Saint Thomas More Parish

**Pastor:**

Rev. Paul G. Murphv

**Date:**

September 29, 2016

### Parish Task Force Members:

- 1) Peter Frank
- 2) Brian Young
- 3) Joseph Roxe
- 4) Brad Pattelli
- 5) Jim Sullivan
- 6) Katie Murphy
- 7) David Congdon
- 8) Bob Gartelman
- 9) Peter Eder
- 10) Christy Duggan
- 11) Mary Ellen O'Connor
- 12) Jennifer Sommer
- 13) Stephen Muecke
- 14) Kelley Frank
- 15) MaryAnn Knagg
- 16) Amy Rizzi
- 17) Peter Ardery
- 18) Lisa Joyce
- 19) Jim Davis
- 20) Patty Catino
- 21) Galen Tate
- 22) Brian Keating
- 23) Isabel Howe

### Leadership Position:

Chair of Strategic Pastoral Planning Council  
Parish Trustee  
Parish Trustee  
Chair Parish Council  
Chair Finance Council  
Women's Circle Chair  
Buildings and Grounds  
Buildings and Grounds  
Dioc. Synod Rep./Seniors Ministry  
Dioc. Synod Rep./Youth Ministry  
Relig. Formation K-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Relig. Formation 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade and Confirmation  
Men's Spiritual Enrichment/Relig. Form.  
Women's Spiritual Enrichment/Relig. Form  
Adult Catechesis  
Financial Development  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Co-chair  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Co-chair  
R.C.I.A.  
Welcoming Committee  
Liturgy and Communications  
Youth Rep.  
Youth Rep.

Signature of the Pastor:



## St. Thomas More Parish Mission Statement

**The Mission of Saint Thomas More Parish is to lead, sanctify, educate, serve and evangelize our parishioners, their families, the greater Darien community and all those in need around the world, in accord with the Good News of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.**

## Pastoral Challenge #1: Worksheets for Parish Goals and Action Steps

### **Catechesis and Education**

#### **A. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:**

The St. Thomas More Parish Task Force chose Catechesis and Education as one of our pastoral challenges. We did so in response to a universal and local call from Catholics for on-going, age-appropriate, inspiring faith formation that extends beyond the K-9<sup>th</sup> grade (Confirmation) Religious Education Program provided by the Parish. We want to promote a greater understanding of Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Magisterium in regard to faith and morals so that parishioners will be encouraged to participate in the Parish's numerous ministries, have a richer experience of the liturgy and grow in personal holiness.

#### **B. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:**

The goal is to initiate 3 programs that will offer on-going catechetical formation and spiritual enrichment to our high school students and adult parishioners

##### **a. Action Step# 1 to achieve the Goal:**

Develop our youth ministry program by hiring a youth minister, consulting with our Parents' Youth Advisory Council and creating a calendar that will appeal to teens by including a cross range of events, including: liturgy, social outreach, spiritual enrichment, catechetical formation, and social and recreational activities.

##### **Summary Information for Action Step #1:**

- **Timeline:** In process throughout the academic year
- **Responsible Task Force:** Fr. Murphy, Fr. Connaughton and Mrs. Susan Lattimer, the Parent's Youth Advisory Counsel and eventually a new Youth Minister
- **Diocesan Office Assistance:** Catechetical Youth Ministry Office
- **Projected Costs:** \$22,500/yr

**b. Action Step #2 to achieve Goal:**

Create a spiritual enrichment and catechetical program for adult men that will also encourage greater participation in the Parish’s pastoral ministries.

**Summary Information for Action Step #2:**

- Timeline: in process with plans for initial promotion by Oct. 31, followed by continual development
- Responsible Task Force: Mr. Stephen Muecke and a core group of leaders yet to be created
- Diocesan Office Assistance: Adult Catechetical Office
- Projected Costs: Self-funding

**c. Action Step #3 to achieve Goal:**

Create a spiritual enrichment and catechetical program for adult women that will also encourage greater participation in the Parish’s pastoral ministries.

**Summary Information for Action Step #3:**

- Timeline: in process and will continue throughout the year
- Responsible Person/Task Force: Kelley Frank and Team Leaders
- Diocesan Office Assistance: Adult Catechetical Office
- Projected Costs: Self-funding

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## Pastoral Challenge #2: Worksheets for Parish Goals and Action Steps

### **Evangelization**

#### **A. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:**

The St. Thomas More Parish Task Force chose Evangelization as one of our pastoral challenges in the hope of developing a comprehensive strategy for effectively proclaiming the Gospel, spreading the news of Parish activities, and encouraging greater participation in the community life of the Parish to our parishioners and to the greater Darien community

#### **B. Statement of the Second Goal to be achieved:**

The goal is to modernize and coordinate the Parish's communications in order to create a comprehensive system that more effectively informs, enlightens and inspires three segments of our community: new parishioners, current parishioners, and non-parishioners.

##### **a. Action Step# 1 to achieve Second Goal:**

Create a welcoming ministry so that new parishioners will quickly feel part of the Parish community and be encouraged to participate in parish ministry.

##### **Summary Information for Action Step #1:**

- Timeline: By Christmas 2016
- Responsible Person/Task Force: Mrs. Patty Catino and a Welcoming Committee in the process of being formed
- Diocesan Office Assistance: Not applicable
- Projected Costs: Yet to be determined

##### **b. Action Step #2 to achieve Second Goal:**

Update the Parish website so that we more effectively communicate with our parishioners and promote non-parishioner participation in the life of our parish by way of modern user-friendly means of communication

##### **Summary Information for Action Step #2:**

- Timeline: By Christmas 2016
- Responsible Person/Task Force: Mr. Galen Tate, Mrs. Anna Bauts, Mrs. Susan Lattimer, dept. heads and directors of parish ministries
- Diocesan Office Assistance: Communications Office
- Projected Costs: Yet to be determined

**c. Action Step #3 to achieve Second Goal:**

To explore possibilities for the Parish to incorporate new social media into our communications so that we more effectively reach new audiences, particularly the youth

**Summary Information for Action Step #3:**

- Timeline: Christmas 2016
- Responsible Person/Task Force: To be hired Youth Minister, Galen Tate, and Youth Ministry
- Diocesan Office Assistance: Diocesan Communications Office and Youth Ministry Office
- Projected Costs: Yet to be determined

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## Temporalities and Administrative Challenge: Worksheets for Parish Goals and Action Steps

### **Buildings and Facilities**

#### **A. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:**

As St. Thomas More Parish celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the Parish Task Force, in response to 2 parish wide comprehensive surveys, small focus group discussions and select interviews, has determined the Parish needs to develop a strategic plan for renovating its facilities. Over the past 50 years the Parish census has grown from 350 to 1,500+ families and the number of parish ministries has greatly expanded. During that same time span there have been no major renovations, updates or expansion of the Parish's facilities.

#### **B. Statement of the Third Goal:**

To renovate, update, and expand the Parish's facilities to meet the growing needs of the Parish

##### **a. Action Step# 1 to achieve Third Goal:**

Assess the current condition of our buildings and determine the required facilities necessary to meet the current and future needs of the Parish

##### **Summary Information for Action Step #1:**

- Timeline: In progress, finalized by Jan. 2017
- Responsible Task Force: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee
- Diocesan Office Assistance: Diocesan Buildings and Grounds
- Projected Costs: not applicable

##### **b. Action Step #2 to achieve Third Goal:**

Create a strategic master plan that identifies and prioritizes needed renovations to the Parish's facilities

##### **Summary Information for Action Step #2:**

- Timeline: In progress, finalized by Jan. 2017
- Responsible Person/Task Force: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee, Ministry Chairs and Department Heads
- Diocesan Office Assistance: Diocesan Buildings and Grounds Committee
- Projected Costs: not applicable

**c. Action Step #3 to achieve Third Goal:**

Determine the costs and means for financing immediate, short-term and long-term renovations to the Parish's facilities

**Summary Information for Action Step #3:**

- o Timeline: In progress, finalized by Jan. 2017
- o Responsible Person/Task Force: Finance Council, Pastoral Council, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee
- o Diocesan Office Assistance: Diocesan Finance Office, Diocesan Sacred Arts Commission and Diocesan Buildings and Grounds
- o Projected Costs: To be determined

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