

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

Part One: Introductory Information

**Parish:**

**Pastor:**

**Date:**

<b>Parish Task Force Members:</b>	<b>Leadership Position:</b>
Leslie Jones .....	President
Susan Baldwin .....	Secretary
Joseph Leonetti	
Shelley Ericson	
Denise Lavoie	
Stephanie Johnson	
Milan Petracek	
Aida Casiano Pelletier	
Donald Pelletier	
Florence Wheeler	
Lori Wilson, principal, St. Andrew School	
Fr. Gene Szantyr	
Deacon Alix Africot	

**St. Andrew Parish Mission Statement:**  
We, the people of Saint Andrew Parish, are a Catholic community and disciples of Jesus Christ. We continue the work of Christ by teaching the word of God, celebrating the Eucharist together, welcoming and encouraging people to develop and share their relationship with God. We strive to be grateful, faithful stewards of God’s resources, earthly and spiritual, by being Christ to each other, our neighborhood, our country and the world.

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

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

***Please note: One Worksheet must be completed for each pastoral challenge to be addressed.***

### **A. Pastoral Challenge to be addressed: Catechesis and Education:**

*Renew the ministry of faith formation throughout our Diocese, leading each person to a deepening relationship with the Lord Jesus in and through His Church.*

- a. There must be a clear, authentic and faithful teaching of our Catholic faith.*
- b. Opportunities for faith formation must be offered in holistic and age-appropriate ways.
  - i. promote knowledge of faith,*
  - ii. liturgical education,*
  - iii. moral formation,*
  - iv. teaching to pray,*
  - v. education for community life,*
  - vi. missionary initiation (1997 General Directory for Catechesis).**
- c. We recognize the need for more effective faith formation for our teenagers and young adults.*
- d. Ongoing opportunities must be offered for all the baptized to grow in their prayer life.*

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

This challenge aligns with the area identified by our DMI results as having statistical significance in comparison with other Parishes, specifically: *Parish helps people grow in their relationship with God.*

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

Renew our ministry of faith formation by providing new education and engagement opportunities that promote knowledge of faith and encourages our Parish to grow and live the faith.

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

Help all parishioners grow in their faith by utilizing the time before Mass to:

- Greet parishioners upon arrival at EVERY door

- Have our lectors introduce the Mass servers, ushers, celebrant and other clergy, and announce readings prior to procession
- Have our lectors provide 2-5 minute teachings about the different parts of our Mass over an 8 week period and add additional Catholic teachings according to the liturgical time and season

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

- Timeline for completion : Beginning of Advent, November 27
- Responsible person/Task Force: Denise Lavoie, Florence Wheeler.
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): N/A
- Projected Costs (if any): None

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

Create a Church bulletin board featuring:

- Safe social media sites and online resources for teens and young adults.
- Information about spiritual retreats and educational opportunities for all parishioners

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

- Timeline for completion : Beginning of Lent, March 1, 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Lori Wilson, Shelley Ericson
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Possibly our Leadership Institute
- Projected Costs (if any): Nominal, to be funded by donations.

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

Create a Parish library where Parishioners can freely access a wide range of digital and print materials on Catholic teachings and spiritual topics.

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

- Timeline for completion: Permanent project to begin Jan. 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Leslie Jones, Sue Baldwin, Alix Africot, Joe Leonetti, Milan Petracek.
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): N/A
- Projected Costs (if any): Nominal – to be funded by donations.

**d. Action Step #4 to achieve Goal:**

- Help to renew our ministries through the organization of a yearly “Day of Recollection” with Fran Karpejei, an experienced retreat leader. This will be a spiritual retreat for lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers and altar servers giving them the opportunity to take time out to commune with God through prayer and reflection.
- Provide small, ongoing workshop discussions with our various ministries beginning Nov., 2016
- Create retreats and “Day of Recollection” for youth ministry teens and keep our youth active in service to the church community and the Catholic Service Corp.

**Summary Information for Action Step #4:**

- Timeline for completion: First retreat – no later than September 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Sue Baldwin, Deacon Alix Africot
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): TBD - possibly reach out to Dr. Joan Kelley
- Projected Costs (if any): TBD by retreat fees, etc.

**e. Action Step #5 to achieve Goal:**

Provide an opportunity for Parent sessions of sacramental students. Engage them in the education of the sacraments and rekindle a desire to grow in their faith as an individual and as a family.

**Summary Information for Action Step #5**

- Timeline for completion: Ongoing - first class being Nov 13

- Responsible person/Task Force: Sue Baldwin, Fr. Gene, Deacon Alix Africot
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): TBD - possibly reach out to Dr. Joan Kelley
- Projected Costs (if any): TBD by retreat fees, etc.

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

***Please note: One Worksheet must be completed for each pastoral challenge to be addressed.***

### **A. Pastoral Challenge to be addressed: Liturgy and Worship:**

*Every Catholic is called to FULL, CONSCIOUS, AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION in the worship life of the Church.*

- a. We must foster an attitude of welcome and hospitality that would accompany every occasion of prayer and worship.*
- b. Special attention must be given to the preparation and delivery of homilies that are relevant, inspirational, engaging and challenging to those who attend Mass and other sacramental celebrations.*
- c. The cultural and ethnic diversity of each community needs to be reflected and celebrated in its worship life, as well as in all diocesan events.*
- d. Every ministry associated with the celebration of the sacraments must be revitalized.*

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

This challenge aligns with the “statistically significant” scores that our DMI results showed on the following:

- *Parish helps people grow in their relationship with God*

It also aligns with the “concerns and challenges” we identified in our Parish Self-Assessment:

- Mass attendance not growing
- Lack of members aged 25-45

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

Help make our Masses more inclusive and engaging to better attract new members and increase participation among current members.

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

Encourage engagement and fellowship among Parishioners through a ministry that provides coffee hours after 9:30 and 11:30 Sunday masses at St. Andrew, and supporting the current post-mass coffee hour at Our Lady of Good Counsel. Use these coffee hours to celebrate the diversity of Parish by featuring foods that reflect the many cultures of our Parishioners.

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

- Timeline for completion:
- Responsible person/Task Force: **Stephanie**
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any):
- Projected Costs (if any):

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

Ensure that the cultural and ethnic diversity of our Parish members are reflected in worship services and events by:

- Featuring more music selections in the various languages spoken by our Parishioners
- Celebrating the ethnic days noted on our Liturgical Calendar in our Masses
- Presenting an International Food Fest for Parishioners

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

- Timeline for completion: **Ongoing. First Food Fest scheduled for Nov. 26, 2016**
- Responsible person/Task Force: **Fr. Gene**
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): **N/A**
- Projected Costs (if any): **To be covered by donations**

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

Display seasonal Welcome banners outside the Church that reflect the cultural diversity of our Parish and encourage participation/attendance.

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

- Timeline for completion : [In process](#)
- Responsible person/Task Force: [Sue Baldwin](#)
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): [N/A](#)
- Projected Costs (if any): [Budgeted through Office of Faith Formation](#)

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

***Please note: One Worksheet must be completed for each temporalities challenge to be addressed***

### **A. Temporalities and Administrative Challenge to be addressed: Community Life**

*Each parish must recognize and celebrate the myriad ways in which the broader family of faith comes together.*

- a. How are newcomers incorporated into community life?*
- b. Is there a space for regular social interaction after Mass?*
- c. Is the cultural, ethnic and racial diversity of its people respected and celebrated?*
- d. Are opportunities found to bring the communities together on a regular basis*

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

This challenge closely aligns with the concerns voiced by the Parish Council when making our Parish Assessment, specifically dwindling Mass numbers. It also closely aligns with our chosen Liturgy and Worship Challenge.

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

Bring new members into St. Andrew!

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

Create and distribute a New Member brochure that invites visitors and others to join our Parish. Brochure will provide information about our Parish family and various ministries, Mass schedule, etc. Brochure will be distributed through St. Andrew Church, as well as to parents of St. Andrew School students.

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

- Timeline for completion: Sept. 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Sue Baldwin, Denise Lavoie, Leslie Jones, Alex Africot'
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): N/A
- Projected Costs (if any): Minimal printing costs through Bullard Havens Tech. School

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

Foster Community between our Church school and Parish through the development and presentation of co-sponsored events, such as movie night, youth socials and family dinners. Promote cross-participation in school and Parish events through Church and School bulletins.

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

- Timeline for completion: June 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Lori Wilson, Leslie Jones, Sue Baldwin
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): N/A
- Projected Costs (if any): TBD – shared by Parish and School

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Statement as to why we didn't select Family Life, Evangelization, or Leadership as our Challenges.

With careful thought and consideration, the Parish Council believes that there are a lot of commonalities between the challenges we selected and those we didn't. We feel that many of our goals and action steps outlined in this document speak to all challenges put forth by the Diocese.

