

Diocese of Bridgeport Parish Pastoral Plan "Building a Bridge to the Future"

Part One: Introductory Information

Parish: St. Bridget of Ireland - Stamford

Pastor: Reverend Edward J. McAulev Jr.

Date: September 2, 2016

Parish Task Force Members:

- 1) Reverend Edward J. McAulev Jr.
- 2) Deacon Ernest Jeffers
- 3) Priscilla Malloy
- 4) Cheryl M. Conte
- 5) Deborah Reda
- 6) Diane Babala
- 7) Janet Roemer
- 8) John Roemer
- 9) Kathy Rinaldi
- 10) Joseph Rinaldi
- 11) Keith Wofsey
- 12) Rita Troshynski

Leadership Position:

- Pastor
- Deacon/Youth Minister
- Parish Business manager
- Music Director
- DRE
- Parish Trustee
- Parish Council President/ Synod Representative
- Parish and Finance Council member
- Parish Council member
- Parish Council member
- Finance Council member
- Parishioner/ Senior age group rep.

Add additional lines if there are more Task Force members

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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catechesis and Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelization | <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgy and Worship |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Life | |

Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

Parents are their children's First Teachers. Children are strongly influenced by the example set by their parents in the practice of the faith. Those same children are the future of our parish and the Church.

Our parish community has many young families which have made employment-related transfers from other areas of the country. They are separated from their extended families and lack support for raising their children in the Church. We hope to create bonds between these families, the Church and other Catholic families. When families worship together and show a great love of Jesus, not only will they be better Catholics but they will be able to live a life that is modeled after Christ's love.

There are other groups with special needs: young adults, seniors, the widowed and divorced, and those who have become inactive in the practice of the faith. Each needs a spiritual home, and our goal is to support the needs of all families, whether traditional or non-traditional.

We wish to provide opportunities for involvement and participation which address their needs and benefit the entire parish. When we create a welcoming and supportive environment to all families, we all benefit.

B. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:

Gather information to better understand the needs of our parishioners.

Action Step# 1 to achieve First Goal:

The first week of September we mailed a comprehensive survey to all registered parish households. Parishioners are sending back the hard copy or going online to respond electronically. (survey copy attached)

(Task Force members Kathy and Joe Rinaldi created the survey which was then tweaked by the pastor, taking into consideration recommendations from Task Force members.)

Action Step #2 to achieve Goal:

Evaluate Survey information to clearly understand and address specific needs. The Task Force will meet to review results and plan future actions in response to the results.

Action Step #3 to achieve Goal:

The weekend of October 15-16 we will be holding our second Volunteer Fair after each Mass to present information and volunteer opportunities for the various organizations and ministries in our parish. The response to the Fair will be a clear and measurable way to evaluate the success of our outreach and education.

Summary Information for First Goal:

Survey costs included mailing (\$600), and the online service Survey Monkey(\$300), which is also being used to compile and analyze results. Task Force member, Keith Wofsey donated the survey mailing costs and the Rinaldi's donated the funds for the online service.

The Volunteer Fair involves all the ministries of the parish.
There is no cost for this event

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:

- Catechesis and Education**
- Evangelization
- Family Life
- Leadership
- Liturgy and Worship

Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

This is a natural choice since it strongly enhances the previous priority, Family Life.

Catechesis and Education will provide tools to assist individuals and families to grow in the understanding and practice of their Catholic faith, enhance their prayer lives and deepen their friendship with Jesus.

B. Statement of the Second Goal to be achieved:

To increase parental involvement in the Religious Education Program.

Action Step# 1 to achieve Second Goal:

To increase parental involvement in Religious Education we plan to do the following:

- a. Invite the parents to sit in on Religious Education classes to meet the catechists and to understand what the children are studying.
- b. Ask parents to volunteer at least one Sunday in the classroom.
- c. Continue to encourage participation in the Parents Group which was started last spring following initial Task Force mtg.
- d. We will utilize information from the Parish Survey to identify additional actions.

Summary Information for Second Goal:

There are no additional costs to parish to achieve this goal. The Director of Religious Education is responsible for implementing actions aimed at increasing active parental involvement in the Religious Education Program.

Statement of Third Goal To Be Achieved:

To enhance adult catechesis and offer opportunities to serve to the larger community beyond the parish.

Action Step # 1 to achieve Third Goal:

To provide adult Catechesis and social challenges:

- a. Encourage more participation in the weekly Bible study and devotions such as weekly praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet and First Friday Nocturnal Adoration.
- b. Offer study groups and/or speakers on spiritual themes based upon interest expressed in Parish Survey.
- c. Reach out to groups outside the parish with special needs such as last year when parishioners helped in a local ARI walk in memory of a deceased parishioner, or this year with parishioners supporting a Walk to raise funds for blood cancer research.
- d. Increase communication via social media. Recently re-launched website offers increased content for living our faith.
- e. "Flocknotes" email program was added in the spring and allows us to communicate and evaluate responses to concerns.
- f. Offer programs on our Parish Website such as those on Prayer, Marian Devotion, etc.
- g. Promote Diocesan programs, retreats and other opportunities for the deepening of faith.

Summary information for Third Goal:

- 1.** Task Force member, Cheryl Conte, in consultation with the pastor, will oversee adult catechesis initiatives.
- 2.** Social media is coordinated and disseminated by the pastor's Administrative Assistant with the review and approval of the pastor.
- 3.** We would look for additional support and information from the Diocesan Family Life and Religious Education Offices.

Our efforts toward making progress with this far-reaching goal will be ongoing over the next two years, and will be reviewed periodically by Pastor's Task Force.

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

A. Temporalities and Administrative Challenge to be addressed:

- Buildings and Facilities
- Finances
- Community Life**

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

The Task Force overwhelmingly chose Family Life and Catechesis and Education as Pastoral Challenges on which to focus. With that in mind, the Task Force has chosen Community Life as a Temporalities and Administrative Challenge on which to focus.

In our continuing efforts to meet the needs of all God's children, we recognize the need to serve the needs of new and long time parishioners, younger and older parishioners, and those of a more racially and ethnically diverse parish population.

C. Statement of Fourth Goal:

To expand welcoming outreach to new parishioners, and to foster a greater sense of belonging to our diverse population, by providing opportunities for the sharing of their time and talent with the parish community of which they are valued members.

- **Action Step# 1 to achieve Fourth Goal:** Form a ministry to welcome new parishioners to the parish. Reach out to them to learn about their previous parish lives and to invite their greater participation in the life of the parish. Is there anything not offered that they would like the parish to offer to assist in transitioning into their new parish, and in their journey of faith?
- **Action Step# 2 to achieve Fourth Goal:** October 15-16 we will present our second Volunteer Fair following all Masses. This will provide all parishioners with additional information about each of our ministries and the opportunity to share some of their time and talent with the parish. In addition speakers at weekend Masses will share their volunteer experiences and better illustrate the benefits of becoming involved.
- **Action Step #3 to achieve Fourth Goal:** We have noticed and increased number of Philippine families joining our parish and are working with members of their

community to include them in our Masses but also provide use of our facility for their special Masses and cultural celebrations.

Summary Information for Fourth Goal :

- Our outreach to new parishioners and our diverse parish population will be ongoing over the next two years, and will be reviewed periodically by the Pastor's Task Force.
- Parish leaders Janet Roemer, Kathy Rinaldi and Joe Rinaldi, in consultation with the pastor, will oversee the implementation of this Goal.
- We don't anticipate any additional cost to the parish to implement this Goal.

D. Temporalities and Administrative Challenge to be addressed:

- Buildings and Facilities** Finances
 Community Life

E. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

Our building is well maintained and in good repair but we are currently working with an energy team from the Diocese to increase the long term efficiency of the facility. This will include more efficient lights, better controls for the HVAC system and solar panels on our roof.

We are quite excited about the opportunity to reduce costs while improving the environment. The energy savings will offset the cost of the project and represent substantial savings in the future.

F. Statement of the Fifth Goal:

Improve the long term efficiency of the facility

- **Action Step# 1 to achieve Fourth Goal:** Change all lights to more efficient LED to drastically reduce electricity usage
- **Action Step# 2 to achieve Fifth Goal:** Upgrade the controls of our HVAC system to allow more efficient operation
- **Action Step#3 to achieve Fifth Goal:** Install Solar panels to reduce our electricity costs.

Summary Information for Fifth Goal :

- Timeline for completion: the next six months
- Responsible person/Task Force: Pastor, Business manager and Diocesan consultants

- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Andrew Schultz, the Diocesan Director of Real Estate, Richard Rapice, Project Director for the Diocesan Real Estate office, coordinating the energy savings program
- Projected Costs (if any): Financing has been approved by the Knights of Columbus, cost of \$84,000 for initial work will be offset by energy savings over the next fifteen years.
- The Diocese has given approval for this program to go forward.