

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

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## Part One: Introductory Information

**Parish:**

St. Catherine of Siena Church

**Pastor:**

Msgr. Alan F. Detscher

**Date:**

September 28, 2016

### Parish Task Force Members:

- 1) Jack Blessington
- 2) Margaret Carter
- 3) Monsignor Alan F. Detscher
- 4) Jeff Dybas
- 5) Tom Gallagher
- 6) Pat Grasso
- 7) David Junius
- 8) Rhonda Morley
- 9) Alice Mullins
- 10) Regina Plunkett-Dowling
- 11) Jerry Porricelli
- 12) Bob Rooney
- 13) Pam Sloane
- 14) Jill Vollmer

### Leadership Position:

Pastor  
Finance Council Co-Chair  
  
Finance Council and Building & Grounds Chair  
Finance Council and Building & Grounds  
Carnival Committee  
  
Reader  
  
Task Force Chair  
Carnival Committee-Sponsors & Advertising  
Walking with Purpose Committee

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Leadership</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelization           | <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgy and Worship          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Life              |   |

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

There is an urgent need to tap into the rich human capital of the parish in order to develop competent co-collaborators in building up the life of the parish.

“The Church which “goes forth” is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. *1 Jn 4:19*), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father’s infinite mercy” *Evangelii Gaudium*, No. 24.

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

Establish a high-performing parish advisory council that can work with Monsignor Alan Detscher, our pastor, parish employees and volunteers in order to establish a vision for St. Catherine’s as a welcoming, inclusive and engaging parish that brings people closer to Christ.

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

Select and ensure commitment of broad range of parishioners with domain expertise to be on the Parish Advisory Council and have parish positions filled by people who inspire others to become more involved. Support and nurture current leaders to help them to build on their successes and actively recruit new leaders, where needed.

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

- Timeline for completion : November 1, 2016
- Responsible person/Task Force: Bob Rooney
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): None

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

Establish a vision for the parish as welcoming, inclusive and engaging and identify best practices for doing this within all parish functions (e.g., faith formation, liturgical ministries, social justice outreach.).

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

- Timeline for completion : December 15, 2016
- Responsible person/Task Force: Rhonda Morley & Pam Sloane
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): None

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

Identify council members who will liaise with the parish functions to identify actions to increase welcoming, inclusive and engaging aspects of their parish functions. Facilitate communication between leaders within the parish and communication with leaders of other parishes, including both Catholic and non-Catholic communities of worship.

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

- Timeline for completion: November 15, 2016
- Responsible person/Task Force: Pam Sloane
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): None

***(Please repeat the sections above if you propose additional action steps to complete First Goal)***

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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:

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

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

“Goodness always tends to spread. Every authentic experience of truth and goodness seeks by its very nature to grow within us, and any person who has experienced a profound liberation becomes more sensitive to the needs of others. As it expands, goodness takes root and develops. If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life, we have to reach out to others and seek their good. In this regard, several sayings of Saint Paul will not surprise us: “The love of Christ urges us on” (2 Cor 5:14); “Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:16), Evangelii Gaudium, No. 9.

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

Increase the engagement of the non-participatory registered families of the parish and draw in new members to the parish.

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

Do a complete census of registered families including all contact information, interests and preferred method of contact, and create in a high quality database.

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

- Timeline for completion: March 15, 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Jeff Dybas & Gerry Porricelli
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Office of Strategic Planning
- Projected Costs (if any): TBD

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

Establish best practice ways of communicating with all parishioners, and seek to bring them to mass or another Christ-centered event in a grassroots, high-touch way (e.g., personal invitation, buddy families, neighborhood gatherings). Examples may include: personal invitations to non-parishioners or non-participating parishioners to a particular event; a parish campaign to “Do Just One Thing” which could include going to a concert, helping with the Fair Trade Fair, or volunteering for the Carnival; Open House visit days for Bible Study groups. Develop an onboarding program for new Parishioners including an introduction to the parish clergy.

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

- Timeline for completion : February 1, 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Jill Vollmer & Tom Gallagher
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): TBD

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

Tailor our five masses for specific target audiences to make them more relevant, welcoming and inclusive to families and individuals (e.g., music, messaging in the homilies, etc.)

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

- Timeline for completion : ?????
- Responsible person/Task Force: Jack Blessington & Alice Mullins
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): None

***(Please repeat the sections above if you propose additional action steps to complete Second Goal)***

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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:**

- Buildings and Facilities
- Finances**
- Community Life

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

Proper stewardship of the parish resources requires prudence in managing

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

God requires of us to act as good stewards of treasure He generously provides to our parish through our members.

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

Do a full assessment of what it takes to operate the parish - both fixed and variable costs - and what sort of “rainy day” funds are needed.

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

- Timeline for completion: December 15, 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: David Junius
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): None

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

Make a clear, simple case to all registered families stating the positive benefits they get from St. Catherine’s and the funds it takes to run the programs and disseminate the case using the parishioner’s preferred method of communication with the goal of increasing the percent of families who participate in regular donations to the church. Measure and track results.

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

- Timeline for completion: January 31, 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Alice Mullins
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): None

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

Establish a stewardship program that reflects a generous commitment of time, talent and treasure to the parish community.

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

- Timeline for completion: April 1, 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Patrick Grasso
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Development
- Projected Costs (if any): TBD

***(Please repeat the sections above if you propose additional action steps to complete Third Goal)***

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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:

- Buildings and Facilities  Finances

### **X Community Life**

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

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life” (Lumen Gentium, #11). In the Eucharistic liturgy and our prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, we encounter God’s presence in personal and profound ways. But the Eucharist is also social, as Pope Benedict XVI reminds us in *Deus Caritas Est*: “A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented.” The Eucharist, celebrated as a community, teaches us about human dignity, calls us to right relationship with God, ourselves and others, invites us to community and solidarity, and sends us on mission to help transform our communities, neighborhoods and world. *Eucharist: Body of Christ: Broken for the World*, [USCCB](#).

### C. Statement of the Fourth Goal:

As a Eucharistic community, we are impelled to build up the participation of parish members in the life of the parish and in the life of the broader community. “The Eucharist “increases, rather than lessens, our sense of responsibility for the world today.” Christ in the Eucharist calls us to build “a more human world, a world fully in harmony with God’s plan” (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, #14).

#### a. Action Step #1 to achieve Fourth Goal:

Get the word out about the various community life opportunities.

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

- Timeline for completion: February 15, 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Margaret Carter
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Diocesan Youth Corps, Leadership Institute, Catholic Charities
- Projected Costs (if any): ???

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

Give parishioners opportunities to “test the waters” without committing fully, for example, by developing “Done in a Day” service opportunities for current community life groups.

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

- Timeline for completion: March 1, 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Alice Mullins
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): None

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

Give current community life groups multiple opportunities to welcome & recruit new people.

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

- Timeline for completion: March 1, 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: TBD
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): None

## Question:

- 1. If you had the ability to respond to a third pastoral challenge, which would you choose and why?**

I would choose Liturgy – and very specifically, homilies. I can think of no more important facet of worship than the message we are given, the message that feeds us during the Mass but, more importantly, after the Mass and thru the week ahead. The coordination of the message among the staff members, the communication of same, and the commitment to carrying it out are crucial to our embracing it and moving forward spiritually personally and to all whose lives we touch.