

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

Part One: Introductory Information

Parish: Saint Catherine of Siena, Trumbull

Pastor: Rev. Joseph A. Marcello

Date: September, 2016

Parish Task Force Members:

- 1) Rev. Joseph A. Marcello
- 2) Deacon Patrick Toole
- 3) John Diercksen
- 4) Robert Cavallero
- 5) Atty. Amy Todisco
- 6) Jeff Wright
- 7) Kathleen Shea
- 8) Salvatore Spadaccino
- 9) Atty. Joseph Tristine
- 10) Carol Donnelly
- 11) Kenneth Martin
- 12) Duane Howell
- 13) Lara Walden

Leadership Position:

Pastor
Parish Deacon
Task Force Chair
Director of Parish Operations
Trustee / Finance Council
Trustee / Finance Council
Active Parishioner
Active Parishioner
Active Parishioner
Active Parishioner
Active Parishioner
Active Parishioner
Active Parishioner



Signature of the Pastor: _____

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

St. Catherine of Siena, Trumbull Parish Mission Statement

Each week in our parish bulletin, we offer this invitation and summary of our mission:

The Parish of Saint Catherine of Siena warmly welcomes anyone who is new to our area, anyone who is searching for the truth, and anyone who is looking for a spiritual home. We are joyfully and faithfully Roman Catholic in belief and practice – a community of faith, worship, service, and formation – and with open hearts we invite all our brothers and sisters into a living and saving friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ, in the communion of His One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

Additionally, the more detailed blueprint which guides our Task Force and our soon-to-be-formed Parish Council is as follows:

The mission of the Parish of Saint Catherine of Siena is to carry on in our community the great missionary work of the Church: to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) and to “build up the Body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). We aspire to be a warm and welcoming community where people of all ages encounter the Lord Jesus Christ, come to friendship with Him, receive His mercy and forgiveness, and are set upon the path to eternal salvation.

We recognize three pillars which support and sustain our parish: (1) Liturgical Worship (2) Knowledge of the Faith; and (3) Evangelization and Service. These pillars guide our efforts to immerse ourselves more deeply in prayer and the Sacraments, grow in knowledge and love of the Lord, enlarge and expand our community, and give more fully of ourselves to meet the needs of those in our parish and community, sharing with them our joy in the good news of the Gospel.

A. Pastoral Challenge to be addressed:

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

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

“The future of humanity passes by way of the family,” wrote St. John Paul II, in his Apostolic Exhortation *FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO* (86). “It is therefore indispensable and urgent that every person of good will,” he said, “should endeavor to save and foster the values and requirements of the family. I feel that I must ask for a particular effort in this field from the sons and daughters of the Church,” he continued. “Faith gives them full knowledge of God’s wonderful plan: they therefore have an extra reason for caring for the reality that is the family in this time of trial and of grace. They must show the family special love. This is an injunction that calls for concrete action.” Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Exhortation *AMORIS LAETITIA*, vigorously reaffirmed the priority of the Church’s pastoral care for the family.

Thus, our main rationale for choosing Family Life as a priority area is that we recognize that our parish could do so much more to foster and support family life. Because the positive consequences of doing more are so great, we must invest a priority of time, attention, and energy in this area.

C. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:

To (a) recognize the different types of families who already comprise our parish; (b) create programs and events best suited to enrich the already active participants, while welcoming inactive or new members; and (c) equip faith-and-family-centered parishioners to evangelize the wider community.

Action Step # 1 to achieve the Goal:

Survey the parish to get a more precise sense of our demographics, and to ask parishioners how best the parish can support them in their vocations of Marriage and Family Life.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion: On or around Christmas, 2016
- Responsible person/Task Force: Salvatore Spadaccino
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None

- Projected Costs (if any): Minimal (printing costs)

Action Step #2 to achieve Goal:

Create a leadership team with the dual purpose of running programs, events, and outreach, which will:

- Support current families
- Reach out to inactive families, and those who are searching for a spiritual home.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

- Timeline for completion: By the end of January, 2017, in order to be prepared with events and programs for Lent, 2017.
- Responsible person/Task Force: Salvatore Spadaccino
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): None

A. Pastoral Challenge to be addressed:

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

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

As members of the Church, we seek to “safeguard” and perpetuate the Deposit of Faith in our community through our witness and instruction in the Faith, so that we “may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding” (Colossians 1:9). We understand, however, that many adults in our community are very under-catechized, and have an 8th grade understanding (or less) of the basics of the Catholic Faith. We believe that a deeper awareness of the riches of our faith will draw our parishioners into a more meaningful encounter with Christ, and a greater participation in the Sacramental life of the Church. We also recognize that we have a special opportunity, through Saint Catherine of Siena School and our Religious Education program, to educate and form our children, who are the future of our parish and of the Church.

C. Statement of the Second Goal to be achieved:

Provide and expand formation opportunities to increase knowledge and appreciation of the great beauty of our Faith and, through deepened knowledge of the Faith, to lead our parishioners to a deeper encounter with Christ.

Action Step # 1 to achieve Second Goal:

Preaching at Masses that informs and educates, while uplifting and engaging parishioners.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion: In process and ongoing
- Responsible person/Task Force: Fr. Marcello & all parish clergy
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): None

Action Step #2 to achieve Second Goal:

Enhance parish website to provide expanded access to approved Catholic content.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

- Timeline for completion: Summer, 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Joe Tristine, Bob Cavallero, Krisa Verbitsky, Kate Gombos
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): Little or none

Action Step #3 to achieve Second Goal:

Promote and expand existing adult formation groups to provide catechetical opportunities in settings that promote fellowship and learning together.

Summary Information for Action Step #3:

- Timeline for completion: Winter, 2017/2018
- Responsible person/Task Force: Fr. Marcello, Dn. Toole, Monica Zuñiga
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): Little or none

Action Step #4 to achieve Second Goal:

Review and improve CCD and sacramental formation programs to better engage both parents and children in learning about God and taking a more active role in parish life, with particular emphasis on First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation preparation.

Summary Information for Action Step #4:

- Timeline for completion: Summer, 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Louise Stewart, Fr. Marcello
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): Little or none



Statements on the challenges not addressed above:

Liturgy and Worship

As “the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed... and the font from which all her power flows” (SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM, 10), the Church’s Liturgy holds the central place in the life and mission of our parish. In this regard, we are grateful that our weekend Mass attendance is trending upwards, congregational participation in singing is noticeably improving, and the homilies of our priests and deacon have been well-received.

In the coming months and years, we will continue to invite and emphasize the participation of all age groups in the liturgical life of the Church, as we continue the program of liturgical catechesis and formation already underway. An important component of this is the enhancement of our sanctuary, to provide a more beautiful sensory experience during worship, and to facilitate in any way we can our parishioners’ encounter with the Lord during the celebration of Mass and the other liturgical rites of the Church. Since Liturgy equips us for Mission, all of this is foundational for our lives of discipleship and service.

Evangelization

“Bringing Jesus to people, and bringing people to Jesus” is how we understand evangelization. Effective evangelization certainly involves a well-organized “game plan,” but first and foremost it is a matter of prayer. In this regard, we think of the words of St. John Paul II, who wrote, in the Apostolic Letter *NOVO MILLENNIO INEUNTE*:

There is a temptation which perennially besets every spiritual journey and pastoral work: that of thinking that the results depend on our ability to act and to plan. God of course asks us really to cooperate with his grace, and therefore invites us to invest all our resources of intelligence and energy in serving the cause of the Kingdom. But it is fatal to forget that “without Christ we can do nothing” (cf. *Jn* 15:5). It is prayer which roots us in this truth. It constantly reminds us of the primacy of Christ and, in union with him, the primacy of the interior life and of holiness. When this principle is not respected, is it any wonder that pastoral plans come to nothing and leave us with a disheartening sense of frustration?

As of October, 2016, we will be offering weekly Eucharistic Adoration from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings, concurrent with our Center of Mercy confessions, which will continue indefinitely, even after the conclusion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. This will help to sustain and obtain grace for the initiatives of our Parish Council, under the leadership of our Pastor, in working toward ever-more effective evangelization.

Leadership

St. Catherine's is committed to fostering a "culture of vocations" in which the beauty and joy of the vocations to the Priesthood, the Diaconate, and to the Consecrated Life are evident, so that young people will see this, and be more able to respond in freedom. Likewise, we regularly include prayers for this intention in the Universal Prayer at weekend Masses. Often the three priests here celebrate Masses for the intention of priestly vocations.

At the same time, particularly through the soon-to-be-formed Parish Council, we will be calling forth lay leadership in various aspects of parish life by emphasizing the mission of all the baptized to evangelize, and by active invitation to men and women throughout our community of faith into a fuller participation in the life, mission, and stewardship of the parish.

It is also a priority of our priests to make our parish rectory a place of healthy priestly fraternity, both among themselves, and with other priests from the diocese.

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:

Good stewardship requires sound financial management, planning, and transparency. A 'strong financial position will allow the parish to expand its pastoral activities and outreach, both now and in the future.

C. Statement of the Third Goal:

To achieve a stronger financial position through the retirement of the outstanding arrearage to the Diocese of Bridgeport for the Cathedralicum and School Subsidy, and by enhancing Sunday offertory.

Action Step # 1 to achieve Third Goal:

Continue the Annual Parish Appeal until the debt to the Diocese of Bridgeport is fully paid.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion: In progress, and continuing for at least 3 years
- Responsible person/Task Force: Fr. Marcello, Bob Cavallero
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): None

Action Step #2 to achieve Third Goal:

Increase Sunday and Holy Day offertory collections through (a) continuing our approach of financial transparency and regular communication about parish finances; (b) an online giving portal through the parish website to allow for more consistency in giving; (c) exploring the possibility of an offertory enhancement campaign, either through the diocesan Development Office or a consulting firm with expertise in this area.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

- Timeline for completion: Ongoing
- Responsible person/Task Force: Fr. Marcello, Bob Cavallero, Trustees
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Possibly the Development Office
- Projected Costs (if any): None

Action Step #3 to achieve Third Goal:

Better utilize the campus and facilities for revenue-producing events and activities by creating a marketing plan for the McClinch Family Center.

Summary Information for Action Step #3:

- Timeline for completion: Next 6 months
- Responsible person/Task Force: Bob Cavallero, Ellen Moran, Gary Vastola, Ed Sewell
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): Minimal (printing costs for brochures)

Statements on the challenges not addressed above:

Buildings and Facilities

We are blessed with a very beautiful parish campus. In the main, our buildings are in good repair, but will require various capital improvements, maintenance, and upkeep as the facilities age in the next several years.

In the church, the HVAC system will need to be extensively repaired or, more likely, replaced in the next 6 to 12 months. We have a reserve of funds to pay for this. Concurrent with the project to beautify the sanctuary of our church, we also will be converting the current lighting to LED bulbs for efficiency. We have replaced the rotted soffits on the rectory, and are currently in the process of replacing the three boilers at the school. Our Director of Parish Operations, Robert Cavallero, is responsible for overseeing the routine maintenance of our parish facilities, as well as identifying, prioritizing, and planning for capital improvements.

Community Life

Two of our identified projects in this regard are to provide a “welcome packet” to newly-registered families – our pastor already has the practice of sending a handwritten note of welcome to each new family in the parish – and to provide a consistent venue, likely in the Church Hall underneath the church, for families to linger and socialize after each weekend Mass. Last year we brought back the annual tradition of the Parish Picnic, which last took place in 2002, and hosted a series of fundraising, community building activities. We also provide ice cream socials, roughly quarterly, to our parishioners after Masses on major feast days, such as the Assumption, the feast of St. Catherine of Siena, and so forth.

Strengthening community life within our parish, and expanding our outreach to inactive Catholics in our area, will be a primary priority of our Parish Council.