

Diocese of Bridgeport Parish Pastoral Plan

“Building a Bridge to the Future”

Part One: Introductory Information

Parish:

Pastor:

Date:

Parish Task Force Members:

- 1) Father Milan Dimic
- 2) Deacon Rudy Trankovich
- 3) Kathy Sherwood
- 4) Carroll Fencil
- 5) Jeannie Bisson

- 6) Karen Adams
- 7) Robert Kavasansky
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)
- 11)
- 12)

Leadership Position:

Pastor
Deacon
President, Advisory Council
Chairperson, Finance Committee
Admin. Assistant/Dir. Religious
Formation
Lay Representative
Lay Representative

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:

X Catechesis and Education

X Family Life

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

The Parish has not had religious education, RCIA, Adult Faith Formation or offered any other programs in many years, thus resulting in lower attendance and parishioners leaving.

C. Statement of the Second Goal to be achieved:

The Goal is to develop and implement religious education, RCIA, Adult Faith Formation and other programs in order to bring the Parish back to an active status offering the necessary programs to fulfill our religious obligations.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve Second Goal:

Due to the lack of religious programs at St. Emery's, Father Milan Dimic hired Mrs. Jeannie Bisson as the Director of Religious Formation. Jeannie comes to St. Emery's with over 40 years of experience as a DRE and other positions for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Religious Education has been developed and implemented with 10 children currently participating. We currently have 2 in Adult Faith Formation. A Bible Study Class will be starting the first week of October and have 9 women participating as of this date.

The May Crowning of the Blessed Mother was reinstated this past year with children participation and singing of Stations of the Cross during Lent which resulted in increased participation from previous years.

We are in the process of starting up the Ladies Guild with various ministries. Our social events bring together families and friends and we have been successful with record turnouts.

We are making every effort to restore St. Emery's to an active place of worship. We see new faces attending masses and there are more children attending masses.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion: *September 2016**
- Responsible person/Task Force: *Father Milan Dimic and Mrs. Jeannie Bisson*
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): *Not Applicable*
- Projected Costs (if any):

****We will be working on new programs and events going forward.***

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:

X Liturgy and Worship

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

Lack of Liturgy Committee

C. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:

To establish a Liturgy Committee.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve the Goal:

*A Liturgy Committee was established by Father Milan Dimic.
A family Liturgy will be introduced at the 9:00 A.M. Sunday Mass.*

Every weekend Mass will develop a theme based on the Gospel. Homily and Music will reflect this theme.

Special Liturgical events will take place beginning with the Rosary in song in October. Other events to be determined by the Liturgical Committee.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion : *August 2016*
- Responsible person/Task Force: *Father Milan Dimic*
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): *Not Applicable*
- Projected Costs (if any): *None*

Pastoral Challenge #3: Worksheets for Parish Goals and Action Steps

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

X Leadership

D. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

There is a need for leadership development in the Parish for our lay leaders. We anticipate the Diocese will provide additional leadership training for clergy.

E. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:

Attend the Leadership Institute Training which is being scheduled by the Diocese.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve the Goal:

Waiting on the Diocese to provide the Leadership Institute training. Look for information on leadership development through books, workshops, etc.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion : October 2016/Ongoing
- Responsible person/Task Force: Kathy Sherwood
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Patrick Donovan
- Projected Costs (if any): To be determined

Additional Comments:

Survey:

St. Emery's Church sent out a survey to parishioners to find out their expectations for the Parish going forward. It also gave us background information regarding our parishioners, what our strengths and weaknesses are and personal comments about their expectations for the future of St. Emery's Church.

Financial:

We continue to remain solvent and expect this trend to continue over the next five years. Our annual contributions increased as well as increased revenues from our events and other fundraisers.

We currently have a three-year lease with an option for two additional years in the agreement. It is anticipated they will continue for the next two years and talks are in progress between St. Emery's, the Board of Education and the Diocese (Anne McCrory).

Buildings and Facilities

School:

We have had a boiler replaced in the church and cost for that was \$41,237.61. The school roof was repaired at a cost of \$39,600.00.

Convent:

Convent is vacant but we have been holding meetings there. We are looking to rent it out but in the meantime, we will use it for certain activities as needed. If rented out, we will need to bring it up to code or find a lessee who wants to invest to renovate to their liking.

Parking:

Parking continues to be an issue. We will have to look for ways to remedy that over the next couple of years. After working with the Town of Fairfield, we now have one handicap parking spot on the side where the handicap entrance is.

Parish Hall:

Requires a new floor and some cosmetic work. We are looking at several options.

School:

The addition to the school roof was replaced. There is another issue with the original part of the school with a leak which is being worked on.

Church:

Persistent water problems. The downstairs water issued has been corrected but we still have a problem with the bell tower. This is being at for solutions to stop the leakage.