

# Diocese of Bridgeport Parish Pastoral Plan

## “Building a Bridge to the Future”

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### Part One: Introductory Information

**Parish:** The Basilica Parish of St. John the Evangelist

**Pastor:** Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni

**Date:** September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

#### Parish Task Force Members:

- 1) Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni
- 2) Fr. Andrew Vill
- 3) Mrs. Daniel [Annie] Schreck
- 4) Mr. John Desoye
- 5) Dr. Joseph McAleer
- 6) Mr. Michael Guarnieri
- 7) Mrs. Geoff [Lauren] Gentile
- 8) Mr. John Regan
- 9) Mr. John Leydon
- 10) Mr. James Duffy
- 11) Ms. Juanita Evans
- 12) Thomas Cycon
- 13) Cindy Hulbert

#### Leadership Position:

Pastor  
Parochial Vicar  
Lay Member of the Corporation  
Lay Member of the Corporation  
Pastoral Council  
Pastoral Council  
Pastoral Council  
Finance Council  
Finance Council  
Finance Council  
Synod Rep  
Finance Council  
Parish Secretary



**Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catechesis and Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelization                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgy and Worship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Life                         |  |

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

**We have chosen Catechesis and Education because we have recognized an increase of parishioners who are registering at the parish who often have not yet completed the Sacraments of Initiation, are not in regular marriages, or are in general seeking to learn more about their Catholic faith. Through new initiatives and strengthening existing programs we hope to make this a priority of our parish's strategic plan.**

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

**Our goal is to catechize three particular groups of the people in the Basilica Parish; namely, those who have not received any or all of the Sacraments of Initiation, those who are married or preparing for the Sacrament of marriage, and finally, parishioners who want deepen their understanding of the faith.**

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

**Renew the RCIA program to encourage more parishioners to complete their Sacraments of Initiation.** Starting this fall the Basilica Parish of St. John the Evangelist is beginning a new program of RCIA which is transitioning from a semester long to a two semester RCIA program. We are using Peter Kreeft's Catholic Christianity as our primary text for teaching this class.

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

- Timeline for completion: one year

- Responsible person/Task Force: Fr. Andrew Vill (DRE/RCIA Coordinator)
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Office of Faith Formation
- Projected Costs (if any): Cost of materials which will be paid for by the participants in the RCIA class.

*(Please complete this page only if the parish plan proposes additional action steps to realize its First Goal)*

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

**Renew the program of marriage preparation in the parish and provide training in Natural Family Planning (NFP) to interested engaged and married couples.** Having begun both of these endeavors in the spring of 2016, the Basilica Parish of St. John the Evangelist has trained three couples to coordinate the marriage preparation program *Witness to Love* and the administration of the *Prepare and Enrich* marriage inventory. In April, the parish sponsored Angela Marchetti to become a certified Creighton Practitioner, qualifying her to instruct the Creighton method of NFP to engaged couples preparing for marriage as well as married couples looking to be educated in family planning.

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

- Timeline for completion : These programs are already in place. Angela's training finishes after one year as a Creighton Practitioner.
- Responsible person/Task Force: Marriage Preparation: Annie Schreck/ Lauren Gentile - NFP: Angela Marchetti
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Office of Faith Formation
- Projected Costs (if any): Marriage Preparation training: \$750 – NFP Certification: \$3,500 (Both fees have already been paid)

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

**Provide opportunities to learn more about the Catholic Faith through our St. Monica Patristic Lecture Series.** Twice a year, the parish will host Patristic lectures available to the public to assist in the continued formation of the lay faithful.

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

- Timeline for completion: one year
- Responsible person/Task Force: Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): \$200 (Stipends for lecturers)

***(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:**

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

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

**We have chosen Evangelization because we have recognized an influx of young parishioners who are eager to learn about their Faith, but also desire to share the Faith with their friends, co-workers and classmates. Through new initiatives and strengthening existing programs we hope to make this a priority of our parish's strategic plan.**

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

**Our goal is to provide various monthly activities where people have an opportunity to gather for prayer, social and education in the Faith. Our particular focus is on the young adults of the parish and in the Stamford community at large.**

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

**Host a monthly "Faith on Tap" night for young adults between the ages of 21-39 and an "Upper Room" night for adults 30 years and older to evangelize and educate people about the Catholic faith.** These nights will cover a variety of topical issues that adults and young adults face today, giving them the perspective of the Church to help them to be evangelized and to evangelize others.

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

- Timeline for completion: nine months (Annually September – May)
- Responsible person/Task Force: “Faith on Tap”: Fr. Andrew Vill – “The Upper Room”:  
Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): \$1,700 (Stipends for speakers)

*(Please complete this page only if the parish plan proposes additional action steps to realize its Second Goal)*

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

**Coordinate in conjunction with Catholic Charities a “Social Night of Service” for young adults to involve them in opportunities for service at the New Covenant Center of Hospitality (NCC). Also coordinate monthly opportunities for parishioners to volunteer at the NCC.** These two opportunities volunteer at the NCC will help our parishioners put their faith in action and witness to the love of Christ through their works.

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

- Timeline for completion : Ongoing
- Responsible person/Task Force: “Social Night of Service”: Fr. Andrew Vill – Monthly service: Leon Taricani
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Catholic Charities
- Projected Costs (if any): Donations for Monthly service

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

**Host a diocesan sponsored Young Adult Holy Hour and Mass monthly at the Basilica to promote devotion of the young people in our diocese and encourage fraternity at the social afterward.** While this endeavor is being championed by the

diocesan Young Adult and Youth Ministry director, hosting it at the Basilica draws many of our young people and local clergy are involved with liturgies and interact with the youth at the social. This project is beyond just the parish, but is a part of our mission to evangelize young people. The parish had begun a monthly Holy Hour for young people this spring, but with the Young Adult Holy Hour and Mass being hosted at the Basilica, the parish efforts have been directed toward this event rather than running an event which would “compete” for the same young people each month.

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

- Timeline for completion : Ongoing
- Responsible person/Task Force: Evan Psencik/ Fr. Andrew Vill
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Office of Faith Formation (Youth and Young Adult Ministries)
- Projected Costs (if any): None (Diocesan Sponsored)

***(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:**

The continued building up of a spiritual community is essential to parish life.

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

Develop the Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist to further become a Stamford, diocesan, regional and national center for Catholic spiritual life.

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

Hire a Pilgrimage Director to coordinate programs and pilgrimage activities.

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

- Timeline for completion: 2017-2019
- Responsible person/Task Force: Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): None
- Projected Costs (if any): \$50,000 (Salary for director)