

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

Part One: Introductory Information

Parish:

St. Joseph Parish, Danburv

Pastor:

Rev. Samuel V. Scott

Date:

September 28, 2016

Parish Task Force Members:

- 1) Mr. Mark Azzara
- 2) Mr. Joseph Bromley
- 3) Mr. John W. Deering
- 4) Mr. Terrence Fiorito
- 5) Mr. George Godfrey
- 6) Mr. Robert Kacmarsky
- 7) Mrs. Lisa Lanni
- 8) Mrs. Anne Leclercq
- 9) Mrs. Constance LaGratta
- 10) Mr. Gerald Palanzo
- 11) Ms. Maryellen Ryer
- 12) Mrs. Lynn Smierciak
- 13) Mr. Geoffrey Wakeford
- 14) Mrs. Barbara Whitlock
- 15) Rev. Samuel V. Scott
- 16) Rev. David Franklin

Leadership Position:

Men’s Ministry Coordinator
Facilities Committee member
Bible Study Core Team member
Member-at-large
Parish Trustee; Finance Council member
KOC, Council 29 Corporation member
St. Joseph School Principal
Respect Life Group Coordinator
Parish Trustee; Finance Council member
Finance Council President; Facilities Committee
School Advisory Board member
Parish DRE
Parish Council member; DGK, Council 29, KOC
Council of Catholic Women President
Pastor
Parochial Vicar

Signature of the Pastor: Rev. Samuel V. Scott_____

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 | X Liturgy and Worship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Life | |

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life” (*Lumen Gentium*, 11). The prominence of the Eucharist in the lives of Christ’s disciples brings the largest number of people to the Parish each weekend to hear God’s Word and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The potential for renewal for the greatest number of parishioners will most likely start with Mass.

C. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:

The first goal is “full, active, and conscious participation” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, #14, 41, 48) of more people in the liturgical life of this unique Parish community. St. Joseph Church, Danbury, is blessed with an architecturally iconic church. Our objective is to maintain the current number of active parishioners who attend Mass here; actively seek to replenish the number lost to attrition; and eventually to increase participation at Mass by two percent.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve the Goal:

This action step has two parts. First, Father Scott will collaborate with three lay leaders to develop formation programs to revitalize, grow, and develop the liturgical ministries of the Parish (greeters/ushers, altar servers, lectors, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion). The plan is to begin with the greeters/ushers as they are on the “front line” in welcoming those attending Mass.

Second, the Parish will establish a retention committee to help new parishioners understand and appreciate the meaning of “full, active, and conscious participation” in the celebration of the Eucharist. We hope especially to connect with graduating seniors from

WCSU who have been active in the Newman Center and are now looking for a parish home in the greater Danbury area.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion : September 30, 2018
- Responsible person/Task Force: Liturgy and Worship Group
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Worship Office
- Projected Costs (if any): N/A

(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:

The Parish will further differentiate the weekend Masses (e.g., the 5 p.m. Sunday Youth Mass) to meet the needs of our diverse community and increase parishioner participation.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

- Timeline for completion : September 30, 2018
- Responsible person/Task Force: Liturgy and Worship Group
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Worship Office
- Projected Costs (if any): N/A

c. Action Step #3 to achieve Goal:

The Parish clergy will differentiate homilies for the weekend Masses so that at the School Family and Youth Masses the homilies are age appropriate for our children and teens.

Summary Information for Action Step #3:

- Timeline for completion: September 30, 2018
- Responsible person/Task Force: Fr. Scott, Fr. Franklin, Dn. Howe, and Dn. Naiman
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Worship Office
- Projected Costs (if any): N/A

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

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

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

St. Joseph Parish cannot “rest on its laurels” in terms of church growth. The secular culture of complacency and hedonism has made vast inroads into what had been a Christian culture that emphasized service. This trend must be reversed. It cannot be “business as usual” with an outdated “maintenance model” of Parish life. We must be intentional, focused, and specific in developing the New Evangelization here. The old model must be replaced with this new paradigm.

C. Statement of the Second Goal to be achieved:

Promote and expand “one on one evangelization” by parishioners, giving them the opportunities increase their ability to articulate the Catholic Faith concisely to those searching for the meaning and purpose of life.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve Second Goal:

To prepare more of the laity to be “one on one evangelizers” through faith formation programs such as the upcoming Bible Study on “The Biblical Roots of the Mass.” This action step is to have educational courses/faith sharing programs at least four times per year and to explore offering new experiential programs such as the “Life in the Spirit” seminar and the “Alpha” program.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion: September 30, 2018
- Responsible person/Task Force: Evangelization Group
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Office for Evangelization
- Projected Costs (if any): TBD

(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:

This action step is to offer “how-to” instruction in faith-sharing in the context of “one on one” conversations. This step starts with members of McGivney Council 29 of the Knights of Columbus.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

- Timeline for completion : September 30, 2018
- Responsible person/Task Force: Mr. Mark Azzara
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): N/A/
- Projected Costs (if any): N/A

c. Action Step #3 to achieve Second Goal:

Provide more explanations of specific Church teachings in separate articles in the *Bulletin*.

Summary Information for Action Step #3:

- Timeline for completion : September 30, 2018
- Responsible person/Task Force: Father Scott and Father Franklin
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): N/A
- Projected Costs (if any): N/A

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

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

b. Action Step #2 to achieve Third Goal:

Create semi-annual social events/volunteer fairs to serve as an introduction to volunteer opportunities.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

- Timeline for completion: September 30, 2018
- Responsible person/Task Force: Community Life Group
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): N/A
- Projected Costs (if any): TBD

c. Action Step #3 to achieve Third Goal:

Use St. Joseph School volunteers to enhance the relationship between the School and the Parish as a way to motivate more Parish volunteers.

Summary Information for Action Step #3:

- Timeline for completion: September 30, 2018
- Responsible person/Task Force: Community Life Group
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): N/A
- Projected Costs (if any): N/A

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