



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

Part One: Introductory Information

Parish:

St. Joseph Church

Pastor:

Fr. Michael F. Dogali

Date:

10/05/16

Parish Task Force Members:

- 1) Rev. Michael Dogali
- 2) Rev. Mariusz Olbrys
- 3) Deacon Bradford Smythe
- 4) Sr. Matthew Maria Rancilio
- 5) Mr. Daniel Horstmann
- 6) Mrs. Patricia Heller
- 7) Mrs. Angela Mantero
- 8) Mary Ann Miller
- 9) Linda Batten
- 10) Gloria Miranda
- 11) Mike Ditoro

Leadership Position:

Pastor
Parochial Vicar
Permanent Deacon
Pastoral Associate
Director of Evangelization & Asst. Dir. of Music
Director of Religious Education
Director of Marketing for St. Joseph School
Lay Member of the Parish Corporation
Chairperson of Finance Council
Spanish Community Leader
Parishioner

Signature of the Pastor:

Rev. Michael F. Dogali

Pastoral Challenge #1

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

A. Pastoral Challenge to be addressed:

- Evangelization

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

As a Parish Community, St. Joseph has just begun to understand that as Catholics we are called to be missionary disciples. We recognize the need that we have to continue to reach out to those who have lost connection to the Faith or have not yet made a connection with our Lord. We desire to continue to expand upon current efforts we have instituted in the last 3 years through our "P.E.A.R.L. Program." With rebranding and reevaluating our actions, it is our hope to welcome new parishioners to our community and grow in numbers. In our NEW Evangelization efforts we want to focus on Witness, Welcome, and Outreach; as well as Spiritual Development and Catechesis.

C. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:

By December 2017 we want to increase registered households by 15% (150 families).

a. Action Steps to achieve the Goal:

- Develop ways to support outward evangelization to the surrounding communities by February 1st, 2017.
- Re-establish and enhance the "Welcoming Ministry" with 25 ministers and develop and communicate duties of Ushers by November 2016
- Expand the Coffee Café Hours on Sundays after Masses –Witness Series with Parishioner Speakers
- Develop a calendar of events that include activities as well as time to worship God. These events should emphasis community building and by inclusive of both English speaking and Spanish speaking communities.
 - Timeline for completion: October 2016

D. Statement of the Second Goal to be achieved:

By May 2017, we see our Community visibly understanding everyone's individual call to be a Disciple. Specifically understanding the call to Ministry, Service, and Prayer as part of the relationship with our Living God. 700 parishioners are involved in at least one parish ministry by December 2017.

a. Action Steps to achieve the Goal:

- Introduce annual training for Liturgical ministries requiring specific instructions – October 2016.
- Host a Ministry Fair in November 2016
- Update and maintain website - newsletters/pages/updates on various ministries

Pastoral Challenge #2

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

A. Pastoral Challenge to be addressed:

- Catechesis and Education

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

Jesus told his apostles to "Go out and make disciples of all nations." Each of us is called to share and teach the Faith to others. Although St. Joseph Parish is active and vibrant there is always room for improvement. Our current needs include sharing the knowledge of the Faith with children, adults, and families. We need to spread awareness of the many ways to put faith not only into practice, but also into action.

Catechesis and Education is sometimes associated with preparing young people for the receptions of the Sacraments, but at St. Joseph we acknowledge the need to offer adults opportunities for instruction. We want to continue our success and renewal of Religious Education for Children as well as look for new ways to serve our adult parishioners who are eager to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

C. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:

By January 2017, 200-250 adults participating in 1-3 distinct faith formation/Adult Catechesis offerings annually.

a. Action Steps to achieve First Goal:

- Assess the Adult Faith Formation offerings/opportunities by January 2017.
- Develop a menu of offerings for 2017-2018 calendar year.
- Hold Lenten Parish Mission (week long evening retreat) 2017
- Offer Annual offsite weekend retreats (men & women) Fall 2017
- Catholic Video – viewing and discussion 3 times in 2017-2018 calendar year.
- “Wine & Cheese with the Pastor” 2 times a year December 2016 & April 2017

Temporalities and Administrative Challenge:

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

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

There is good news to report. We are financially sound. Our community is able to raise funds and sustain accounts to be able to maintain and enhance our 110 year-old plant. Reviewing the last 3-4 financial years, we are at a steady level. Recently we have experienced capital campaigns and annual End of the Year appeals that have had a positive effect on our trends. For example, in 2013 we completed a \$1 million plus renovation to our 110 year-old church and which was dedicated by Bishop Caggiano. With our current model and continual monitoring of our budget and spending we are sustainable for the next 5 years.

Our Finance Council attests to the solvency of the parish. We have a clear budget review process, cost controls reviewed by the Pastor and reliable collections. Some of our financial concerns are the aging demographic of our largest donor population, the decrease in church attendance, and the challenges we share with the global Catholic Church. The following is the current condition of buildings:

Church – The interior needs restoration or repainting. The flooring/carpet needs to be replaced. The Choir Loft floor needs to be refinished/replaced. Pews need to be refinished.

Rectory—it is showing its age. Outdoor trim need to be painted.

School – Needs a new roof on the gym and old wing.

Parish Hall – needs a fresh coat of paint.

Convent- needs a few new windows. The boiler is old, but functions well. Railing on the porch is not stable. There is a bat problem.

Grounds and Parking - parking lot – repair patch holes and repaint lines. Light Landscaping would help the general grounds (some signs are covered by bushes etc.) Building signs (Upper Room & Religious Ed need to be Replaced and Evangelization and Youth Ministry Need a sign.)

Other Parish Buildings – Upper Room needs its cabinets to be replaced or fixed (the doors are off the tracks). The chair lift needs to be fixed/replaced. PCMR and Religious Ed Buildings have rotted entrance ways that need to be replaced. We could pave the current grass area in front of 30 Fairmont Pl. and reserve that space for the residents as to make more spaces available to parishioners in the main parking lot.

C. Statement of the First Goal:

By December 31st we will have completed a successful End-of-Year Campaign.

a. Action Steps to achieve Third Goal:

- Evaluation of the cost of building repairs and renovations.
- Commence the bidding on cost of Church renovations.

Summary of Timeline

- October 2016 – Calendar of Community Evangelization Events
- November 2016 – Welcome Ministry & Duties for ushers
- November 2016 – Ministry Fair & website update
- December 2016 – Wine & Cheese with the Pastor
- January 2017 – assess Adult Faith Formation offerings/opportunities
- February 1st 2017 develop ways to support outward Evangelization
- Lent 2017 – Parish Mission (One Week Evenings)
- April 2017 – wine and Cheese with the Pastor
- May 2017 – Understanding the Call To Missionary Discipleship
- Fall 2017 – hold first annual weekend retreats (men & women)
- December 2017 increase registered households by 15% (150 families)
- December 2017 – 700 Parishioners involved in at least one parish ministry
- 2017-2018 Catholic Video Dialog 3 times
- January 2018 – 200-250 adults participating in 1-3 distinct faith formation/ Adult Catechesis