

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

Part One: Introductory Information

Parish:

Saint Jude Parish. Monroe CT

Pastor:

Msgr. Dariusz J. Zielonka

Date:

September 27, 2016

Parish Task Force Members:

Leadership Position:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Msgr. Dariusz J. Zielonka | Pastor |
| 2) Donna Bria | Business Manager |
| 3) Karen O'Keefe | Trustee |
| 4) Pat Thorton | Member |
| 5) Tom Dineen | Member |
| 6) William Rauser | Member |

Add additional lines if there are more Task Force members

In addition:

Father Henry Hoffman – Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Tuccio – DRE, Religious Education Program
Deacon David Flynn – RCIA, Adult Formation
Rian Grimmer - Parish Music Director
Edward DiMaria – Parish Finance Council President

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:

- Liturgy and Worship

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

To present a welcoming community that worships actively and well. To make Saint Jude an attractive and inviting parish to people who have been away and would like to join us. To support our parishioners in their spiritual journey and enhance their spiritual experience.

C. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:

We already started our review process last year and continue to implement changes in order to make our worship even more vivid, attractive, deeply spiritual, corresponding to the needs of our community. Therefore, the following have been instantiated or are planed:

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve the Goal:

Introduction of the Children liturgy (9 am Mass on Sundays during school year). This Mass was introduced in Fall 2015. The goal of this year is to engage as many parents and volunteers in it as possible. Our current response is about 30 kids at the Mass, which we would like to increase to 50. We need continuously evaluate and assess if any additions and changes are necessary to augment this initiative.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion: June 2017

- Responsible person/Task Force: Father Henry
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): possibly Faith Formation - Children
- Projected Costs (if any): minimal, if any

b. Action Step #2 to achieve Goal:

Hire a new Music Director and implement / teach additional music settings.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

- Timeline for completion: July 2016 (Hire) -> June 2018 (teach new music, increase participation, get new hymnals, coordinate all music groups)
- Responsible person/Task Force: Rian Grimmer Music Director
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): NA
- Projected Costs (if any): Part of the budget.

c. Action Step #3 to achieve Goal:

Building up of the children and adult choirs. This is initiated by the Music Director. Teach our Religious Education and School children church music, Mass responses, etc.

Summary Information for Action Step #3:

- Timeline for completion: June 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Rian Grimmer Music Director
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): NA
- Projected Costs (if any): Part of the budget.

A. Pastoral Challenge to be addressed:

- Catechesis and Education

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

Religious Education is an important element of the parish evangelization. Evangelization touches the hearts of many and presents an opportunity for formation and spiritual growth. Well-formed parishioners become new evangelists of the 21st century.

C. Statement of the Second Goal to be achieved:

To augment our current Religious Education program with proper training for the catechists.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve Second Goal:

Take advantage of the soon opening Catholic Institute in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Train the Catechists to allow them to do their work with greater knowledge, zeal and effectiveness.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion: June 2018 and beyond
- Responsible person/Task Force: Deacon John Tuccio, DRE
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): The Faith Formation, the Catholic Institute.
- Projected Costs (if any): TBD

b. Action Step #2 to achieve Second Goal:

Review of the curriculum so it matches the diocesan one - when available. Choose diocesan approved materials that fit best our needs.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

- Timeline for completion: June 2018
- Responsible person/Task Force: Deacon John Tuccio, DRE
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): The Faith Formation, the Catholic Institute.
- Projected Costs (if any): TBD – part of the Religious Education budget.

c. Action Step #3 to achieve Second Goal:

Implement more advance technology for parents’ communications and information. This is to be used to engage parents more with the program and parish.

Summary Information for Action Step #3:

- Timeline for completion: June 2017
- Responsible person/Task Force: Pastor, Deacon Tuccio
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): IT, OSV
- Projected Costs (if any): \$12k / year

A. Temporalities and Administrative Challenge to be addressed:

- Finances

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

Similarly to the other parishes in the region, Saint Jude in Monroe suffered from a steady decrease of revenue since 2002. The parish's Italian Festival, which used to create some monies for savings and projects, is now being used as a part of regular budget. The school / Religious Education building represents 20+ years of deferred maintenance. A lot has been done but further items will have to be scheduled in future for repairs and replacements. Other buildings require updates as well. For example, last year we had to replace the roof on the church itself. In addition, the revenue does not cover fully the budget needed for operations of the parish, even though we reduced our spending by \$230K in fiscal year 2015-2016.

C. Statement of the Third Goal:

After consultation with the Parish Finance Council and the Pastoral Council, as well as other parishioners, it is our hope to institute an annual parish appeal/drive in the fall of each year. The goal is to raise about \$150K annually to supplement our income.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve Third Goal:

Choose and contract a diocesan-approved vendor to prepare and manage the appeal promo, collection and reporting.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion: September / October 2016
- Responsible person/Task Force: Donna Bria
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Finance – consultation
- Projected Costs (if any): \$3-5K

b. Action Step #2 to achieve Third Goal:

The president of Parish Finance Council (possibly with other members) is to present the current financial situation to the parish, what has been done to cut our expenses (\$230k so far), and why we need to do this appeal.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

- Timeline for completion: October 2016
- Responsible person/Task Force: Edward DiMaria (Parish Finance Council)
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): NA
- Projected Costs (if any): NA

c. Action Step #3 to achieve Third Goal:

Follow up with mailings, pulpit and bulleting announcements, as well as reporting and thank you letters.

Summary Information for Action Step #3:

- Timeline for completion: October – December 2016 (repeated annually)
- Responsible person/Task Force: Pastor, Business Manager, Parish Finance Council
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): NA
- Projected Costs (if any): As stated above (Step1)

Optional Question:

- 1. If you had the ability to respond to a third pastoral challenge, which would you choose and why?**

Evangelization. With the Synod discussions we learned about various options but still we are not convinced which one would work the best for us. We need to have more time to look into this issue and maybe get more practical training / options from the Diocese or other parishes and institutions. We definitively see it as an issue that needs to be address in the parish.