

ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS PARISH

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Rev. Shawn W. Cutler
Pastor

December 22, 2016

Dear Parishioners,

I am pleased to present to our parish family St. Marguerite's Pastoral Plan. As you are aware, all parishes in our Diocese, under the direction of Bishop Frank Caggiano and the 2014 Synod, have identified areas of parish life where there is great vitality or where challenges may exist that need to be addressed. The overall purpose of the Pastoral Plan is to make St. Marguerite stronger and more responsive to our parishioners' needs within our Catholic mission of being a faithful presence of Jesus Christ to the world.

The Diocesan Synod identified five pastoral challenges: Liturgy and Worship, Family Life, Evangelization, Leadership, and Catechesis and Education. Bishop Caggiano also asked parishes to look at three administrative areas: Finances, Buildings and Facilities, and Community Life. All parishes were asked to concentrate on two of the five pastoral challenges and one of the three administrative ones. All of the Pastoral Plans from each parish can be seen online by visiting the Diocesan website: www.bridgeportdiocese.com/strategic-planning/home.

I am grateful to our parish Task Force Members who were helpful in highlighting which pastoral and administrative areas St. Marguerite should work on as we begin our first year of implementation. As we move forward together, there may be other areas where we will focus our attention. For this first year, our Task Force decided to concentrate on Catechesis and Education, Liturgy and Worship, and Buildings and Facilities.

We submitted our Pastoral Plan to Bishop Frank Caggiano, which he approved.

We look forward to evaluating our goals and moving forward toward an even stronger future for our parish of St. Marguerite!

May God continue to bless our parish family.

Rev. Shawn William Cutler
Pastor

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN

Task Force Members:

Deacon Anthony Detje, Clergy
Mary Ellen Tiernan, Faith Formation Director
Alane Meehan, Trustee
Joseph Rajcula, Parish Council
Patricia Spitzfaden, Parish Council
Kevin Sheehan, Finance Council
Rev. Shawn W. Cutler, Pastor

PASTORAL CHALLENGE TO BE ADDRESSED:

Catechesis and Education

Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

We recognize the need to educate the entire family in the faith.

Statement of the First Goal:

Begin Family Formation as our religious education in grades 1-6 to bring the parents to a deeper knowledge of the faith that they share with their children. This will also foster community life as the families get to know one another in a faith-sharing environment.

- **Action Step #1 to achieve Goal:**

Educate the entire parish about what Family Formation involves and how it is a stronger approach to religious education because parents and children both receive the same lesson each month to work on together.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

Timeline for completion: January 2016 to the present.

- **Action Step #2 to achieve Goal:**

Actually meeting with the parents and children for our first Family Formation session in September to introduce them to the program which now includes parents as the primary educators in the faith. At least one parent attended this class or a make-up class that was provided for them. The parish provides the tools that parents need to work with their whole family.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

Timeline for completion: Monthly lessons.

- **Action Step #3 to achieve Goal:**

Invite Bishop Caggiano to teach the Family Formation lesson in January 2017.

Summary Information for Action Step #3:

Timeline for completion: January 2017.

ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS' PASTORAL PLAN - cont.

PASTORAL CHALLENGE TO BE ADDRESSED:

Liturgy and Worship

Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

To address many requests received in the northern part of the Diocese for a Traditional Latin Mass.

Statement of the Second Goal:

To provide a monthly celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass in Vicariate V to meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of the faithful who are attached to this Mass and who have asked for its celebration as well as to educate people not familiar with the Traditional Latin Mass.

- **Action Step #1 to achieve Second Goal:**

To celebrate the Tridentine Mass on the first Sundays of the month beginning in September.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

Timeline for completion: 4 September 2016 and ongoing.

- **Action Step #2 to achieve Second Goal:**

To provide education in the Traditional Latin Mass including training altar boys.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

Timeline for completion: September and October 2016 classes on the Traditional Latin Mass. Ongoing classes will be held as needed and requested.

TEMPORALITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGE TO BE ADDRESSED:

Buildings and Facilities

Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

The need to update and renovate the parish facilities regarding the rectory and the meeting spaces.

Statement of the Third Goal:

The parish rectory is the last major phase of facilities updates that St. Marguerite began years ago under the previous pastor and Finance Council. Since then, church facilities have also needed updating and proper maintenance after prolonged use.

- **Action Step #1 to achieve Third Goal:**

Obtain various bids for the rectory renovation. Choose a contractor on the approval of the Finance Council and pastor. Submit the contractor's plans and the actual contract to the Bishop.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

Timeline for completion: Current; propose three months to completion once the rectory renovation begins.

- **Action Step #2 to achieve Third Goal:**

To clean thoroughly and update the interior church facilities to make them attractive and to provide a welcoming environment for our parishioners and their activities. We plan to have organizations rent our facilities to provide us with a constant income stream.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

Timeline for completion: Current through December with the major work; ongoing maintenance needed.