

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

Part One: Introductory Information

Parish: St. Paul Greenwich
Pastor: Rev. Leszek P. Szymaszek
Date: Sept..10th 2016

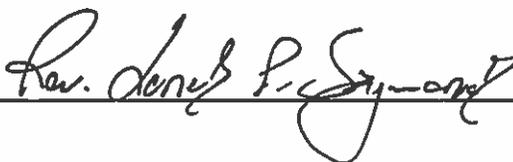
Parish Task Force Members:

Leadership Position:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Fr. Les | Pastor |
| 2) Vince Miata | Parish Council |
| 3) Virginia Weir | Parish Council |
| 4) Lynn Mara | Parish Council |
| 5) Hope Hirshorn | Parishioner |
| 6) Joe DeMarkey | Parishioner & Synod Delegate |
| 7) | |
| 8) | |
| 9) | |
| 10) | |
| 11) | |
| 12) | |
| 13) | |

Add additional lines if there are more Task Force members

Signature of the Pastor:



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:

At its essence, the health and future success of the Church depends on a strong family unit. Without a healthy foundation of parents and children, it is not possible for the Church to continue its mission to educate the future members of the values and morals the Catholic Church is based on. In our parish, we see a vibrant CCD program yet our concern is that the parents of many of the CCD children are not setting a proper example for their sons and daughters. There is a disconnect between coming to class and actually living the faith which should be set by example. Parents just going through the motion of driving and collecting the children from Religious instruction while not discussing and reinforcing the faith they are being taught results in the young people going through the motions viewing CCD as an obligation as opposed to an opportunity to learn the wonderful aspects of our Christian Faith. We fear that once the sacraments are achieved, we cannot count on the children to practice their faith by attending Mass when their parents are not setting the proper example. You need to win over the parents (especially the Moms) if you hope to influence the young.

It is for this reason that we have chosen an emphasis on Family life as a key challenge we as a parish wish to address.

C. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:

St Paul plans to emphasize to the parents of our parish youngsters how critically important it is to set the proper example first and foremost at home where the preponderance of a child's learning takes place and where parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith to their children. Our goal is to inspire and renew a sense of passion and purpose towards our faith for all the parish families.

Action Step# 1 to achieve the Goal:

As a community of believers with a strong faith and regard for the spiritual growth of our parish, we will strive to bring the families together to foster a sense of belonging. Our outreach will go beyond encouraging family attendance at Sunday Mass. We plan to develop programs where the families of

the parish can get together to develop friendships and hopefully begin to appreciate the importance of setting a good example for their children encouraging them to make the Parish Community a part of their lives both spiritually as well as socially. Some of the ideas to facilitate this goal are::

- As a new initiative this year we will have a social/spiritual meeting with parents of the Confirmation Class (58 teens scheduled to be confirmed for 2016). This informal gathering will be hosted in one of the parents' home on the same Sunday night that the teens will have their Confirmation retreat.
- We have revised the CCD schedule to facilitate family Sunday Mass participation;
- Beginning in Sept. we are instituting a regularly scheduled Coffee social after Mass;
- Periodic parish dinners with the goal of fostering familiarity amongst the community (knowing each other on a first name basis).
- Targeting married couples for fellowship events and periodic discussion of faith-based topics;
- Taking the opportunity through Fr. Les's homilies to emphasize the importance of "giving witness" to while expressing and defending their faith with passion, in order to regularly reinforce the value and "purpose" that faith plays as a critically important tool for life.

Summary Information for Action Step #1 to achieve First Goal:

- Timeline for completion : 1-2 years
- Responsible person/Task Force: The Pastoral Planning committee will be responsible and the group will solicit additional volunteers to be involved in the different programs we will institute.
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): we do not contemplate needing Diocesan assistance at this time.
- Projected Costs (if any): until we develop a budget, costs involved are hard to quantify. Since most of these programs involve a time commitment of the committee and volunteers, we anticipate the costs to be manageable.

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:

- Family Life
- Leadership
- Liturgy and Worship

👉 Evangelization alongside Catechesis and Education.

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

We believe that part and parcel of fostering a better life for the families of parishioners is an outreach from St Paul as a faith community to bring the Good News of the Gospel and reinforce the message of the Gospel to all our members. Evangelizing combined with Catechesis and Faith based education by setting an example as good Christians goes a long way to fostering a better Family life. As such, we feel these two combined challenges are inextricable. If we can raise the level of consciousness amongst the faithful to lead the lives our Lord has laid out for us in the Gospels we are performing a necessary and worthwhile task to encourage a deeper awareness of our Catholic Faith at the adult level and by such example, enjoy the dividends of such behavior with their young families.

C. Statement of the Second Goal to be achieved:

The committee will strive to create programs to foster an evangelical message reinforced with education and Catechesis without an outward signal to forcibly convert those whose faith is faltering or in doubt.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve Second Goal:

Akin to the steps we propose to take to encourage a healthier spiritual family life, our efforts to encourage more socialization (with a goal of Catechesis and Evangelization) will have the added objective of demonstrating the lives good Catholics should be following. Some of the ideas the committee discussed and we will try and implement are:

- Speaker series on topics both Spiritual and Secular. We have already scheduled Matthew Kelly a well known and charismatic speaker to hold a one day Mission at our parish next Spring. This event will be open to the wider Diocesan audience. Some Additional ideas for a speaker:
 - pro-life/Catholic perspective on stem-cells advances
 - explanation of the new Canonical norms regarding the annulment process by a Tribunal judge.
- Institution of a First Friday Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
- A Miraculous Medal Novena
- First Saturday of the Month Rosary in Church;
- A Holy Hour on a weekly or monthly basis
- Consider participation in the Walking with Purpose Program for our female parishioners
- Consider working with the Legionaries of Christ who have a charism for working with youth and families, and are particularly excellent at attracting people to confession. This will facilitate a “spiritual direction”.
- Host a Ministry Fair to encourage new Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Catechists, Ushers

Summary Information for Action Step #1 to achieve Second Goal:

- Timeline for completion: 1-2 years
- Responsible person/Task Force: Committee to initiate with volunteers as needed
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): No diocesan help necessary
- Projected Costs (if any): Need to be devised after the programs are started.

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 Church recently celebrated 45 years in its current location (consecrated April 18, 1971). There were and continue to be a number of Capital Improvement projects that need to be considered. We have made some repairs to the Rectory (new roof and Windows), and undertook a repaving of the main Church parking lot and driveways.

C. Statement of the Third Goal:

To address the physical needs of the Church and its facilities.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve Third Goal:

- We are in the midst of obtaining approval to replace the roof of the Church. This, like the parking lot, is a major undertaking. We have a meeting with Building Committee scheduled for Sept. 21st.
- We plan to paint the Church upon completion of the new roof
- We plan to purchase a new Sound System with improved acoustics to overcome the challenges of a round building with no sound absorbing surfaces.
- We plan to convert the rotunda in the back of the Church into a cry room by installing speakers, chairs and/or benches, and replacing the wooden doors with glass.
- Our HVAC system continues to show signs of its age. We need to be prepared to replace it at some point in the future. Like the repaving of the parking lot and the new roof, this will be a significant expenditure.

Summary Information for Action Step #1 to achieve Third Goal:

- Timeline for completion: 6 to 9 months except for the HVAC system.
- Responsible person/Task Force: The pastor will lead the contractor / vendor selection calling upon the assistance, inputs and advice of his Parish and Finance Councils.
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): we may need authorization for large spends and referrals for vendors with whom the Diocese has experience.
- Projected Costs (if any): moderate to significant for which we will generate funds internally
We recently submitted our Parish budget.

Optional Question:

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

Enhancing community life ties in to the 2 challenges we have selected. A healthy, strong and proactive parish community will allow us to address the challenge of Family Life, Evangelization and Catechesis /Education . We are already blessed with an excellent track record of volunteerism as we implement the charisms of our Catholic Faith.

As an additional response towards an outreach to community life, we are in the midst of taking on additional volunteers to assist with acts of charity in response to Pope Francis's call for a Year of Mercy in cooperation with Don Bosco Center in neighboring Port Chester, N.Y.