

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

Part One: Introductory Information

Parish:

St. Philip Parish, Norwalk

Pastor:

Father Michael A. Boccaccio

Date:

November 30, 2016

Parish Task Force Members:

- 1) Elizabeth Broncati
- 2) Jay Devine
- 3) Fr. Sudhir Dsouza
- 4) Dan O'Connor
- 5) Art Petrone
- 6) Frank Porco
- 7) Isabel Rosendahl
- 8) Alan Yoder

Leadership Position:

Trustee, Parish Council
Trustee, Parish Council and Finance Committee
Associate Pastor
Finance Committee, Task Force Chair
Finance Committee
Parish Council
Parishioner
Parish Administrator

Parish Mission Statement:

St. Philip Parish, a welcoming Catholic community, strives to love, honor, know, and serve God. As a family, we gather to celebrate liturgy, perform good deeds. Share our faith, and bring all to Christ. St. Philip, lead us to Jesus.

Signature of the Pastor: _____

Pastoral Challenge #1: Worksheets for Parish Goals and Action Steps

A. Pastoral Challenge to be addressed: Catechesis and Education

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

The parish desires to keep young people involved in the Church and active in their faith. Like other parishes we find our children lose interest in church as they move into their high school and college years. We want to strengthen the basis of their faith through Catechesis and Education.

C. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved

Establish a program for middle school children to maintain their involvement in the Parish, to keep them active in their Catholic Faith – believing, learning and practicing it. The Program will involve high school students to act in leadership positions and involve parents to assist and teach.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve the Goal:

- Bring the new Youth Minister and the entire Faith Formation team on board. Identify high school students still active in the parish who will assist with the younger children; identify parents willing to provide the guidance and adult supervision required.
- Ensure total collaboration and clear communication, as well as established expectations, goals and roles which may overlap, of all who serve the Youth. Facilitate annual meetings to ensure that goals are set and interim objectives and issues are identified and planned for.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion : 18 Months
- Responsible person/Task Force: Youth Minister, DRE and Pastor
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Office of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
- Projected Costs (if any): Increased responsibility of Youth Minister may add to payroll costs. Some added supplies.

b. Action Step #2 to achieve Goal:

The leadership group meets to plan and coordinate the program on a regular basis in order to evaluate, to take corrective steps, and to recommend a new plan of action. For this step we would want to include the Parish Council, staff and other ministries who are in leadership positions to help with the implementation of the plan.

Summary Information for Action Step #2:

- Timeline for completion : Ongoing
- Responsible person/Task Force: Youth Minister, DRE and Pastor
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): ---
- Projected Costs (if any): ---

Pastoral Challenge #2: Worksheets for Parish Goals and Action Steps

A. **Pastoral Challenge to be addressed:** Evangelization

B. **Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:**

We feel that our regular parishioners are not up to date with teachings of the church and Scripture. With Pope Francis' call to Love and Mercy there seems to be some confusion with regards to the Church's position on many issues.

C. **Statement of the Second Goal to be achieved:**

To develop a program to evangelize the parish in scripture, theology and the teachings of the Church, to keep them abreast of the changing world environment. To inculcate a love for scripture and the teachings of the church.

a. **Action Step# 1 to achieve Second Goal:**

On a monthly basis, we will be dealing with different topics of Faith Formation/Evangelization for the entire parish. The push will be done from the pulpit, bulletin announcements, etc. We will also use our CD and Book kiosk to inform and update the parish with new topics on a regular basis.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion: Ongoing
- Responsible person/Task Force: Pastor, Clergy
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Office of Faith Formation
- Projected Costs (if any): \$ 1500

A. Temporalities and Administrative Challenge to be addressed:

Buildings and Facilities

B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:

The buildings and the facilities at St. Philip are aging and we foresee huge maintenance-related expenses in the near future.

C. Statement of the Third Goal:

To constantly keep updating and repairing the existing buildings and facilities.

a. Action Step# 1 to achieve Third Goal:

- Updating and repairing the existing buildings and facilities, (including the air-conditioning, boilers, parking lot, roof, etc.), so as to avoid a major financial burden in the future. To update the facility with “green” technology when we have funds available, by taking care of many smaller projects.
- To upgrade the Restroom facilities in the Church and the school buildings.
- To actively seek tenants for the unoccupied sections of our school building. The rental income will be used for the upkeep of the property/facility.
- To have special capital campaign if and when needed.

Summary Information for Action Step #1:

- Timeline for completion: Ongoing
- Responsible person/Task Force: Parish Administrator and Finance/Property Committee
- Diocesan Office assisting (if any): Development Office, Finance Office.
- Projected Costs (if any): Ongoing expenses

Optional Question:

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

If we had the ability to respond to a third pastoral challenge, we would choose 'leadership'.

St. Philip has been a "people's" parish and we have to constantly keep working on building up our lay ministers as future leaders. As we keep losing our present leaders, due to various factors such as illness, death, moving, and burn-out, we have to make sure that we have new blood coming in to continue all ministries.

Pastoral Challenges Not addressed in this initial document (and Status)

1. **Liturgy and Worship:** One of our strengths at St. Philip is the celebration of our liturgies. With the help of the Liturgy Committee and the Music Ministry we have been evaluating and updating our liturgical celebrations on a regular basis. We have also been trying to include the different ethnic groups and languages of the various people we serve.
2. **Family Life:** Many of our ministries focus on promoting family life. We encourage participation of the entire family in our liturgy. We hope that the new pastor would continue to welcome new families and include them in the many activities of the parish.