

## St. Scholastica Pastoral Plan

October 11, 2016

### 1. DISCIPLESHIP

- a. Cultivate a personal encounter with Jesus in order to joyfully share the Gospel as a knowledgeable and responsible disciple
- b. Inspire young adults to participate as lay leaders in the mission of the Catholic Church
- c. Embrace immigrant Catholics and encourage their development as leaders in the Church

#### 1A. St.Scholastica Strengths Regarding Discipleship

- d. Religious Education
  - i. Parish School
  - ii. Religious Education for Youth
  - iii. Religious Education Programs for Adults
- e. Active Youth Program
  - i. Storm Youth Group
  - ii. Missions
  - iii. Serve as Eucharistic Ministers
  - iv. Serve as Altar Servers
  - v. Serve as Lectors
  - vi. Serve as Song Leaders
  - vii. Serve on Pastoral Council
- f. Embrace Immigrant Catholics
  - i. Hospitality Sundays
  - ii. Hospitality Sunday featuring international foods
  - iii. Masses with international languages spoken
  - iv. Welcome Desk
  - v. Encuentro
- g. Strong Community

- i. We have a strong community that acknowledges the Pope's teaching about "our responsibility to share His love with others"
- ii. CCW
- iii. Adult and Youth Lectors
- iv. Adult and Youth EMCs
- v. Adult and Youth Cantors
- vi. Adult and Youth Ushers
- vii. Choirs and Music Groups for all ages and music preferences (bells, guitar, bereavement)
- viii. Annual Picnic

**1B. Challenges St. Scholastica Faces Regarding Discipleship**

- a. Getting more parishioners involved in attending Mass and not just dropping their children off for Mass
- b. Getting more parishioners involved in adult religious education programs
- c. Getting more millennials' involved in our parish
- d. Best methods to communicate with parishioners of all ages

**1C. Initiatives/Goals**

- a. Consider taking a survey to assist us in seeing how we can attract those not currently attending Mass to join us in making our Community stronger
- b. Evaluate our communication methods to assist us to get greater participation in all that we offer as a Community

**2. EVANGELIZATION**

- a. Seek, invite, and welcome Catholics who have drifted away from the Church
- b. Emphasize and outwardly proclaim the importance of the sacraments

**2A. St. Scholastica Activities Regarding Evangelization**

- a. Mass available 6 days per week
- b. Sacrament of Penance available every Saturday or by appointment
- c. Sacrament of the Sick as requested by parishioners
- d. Biannual Mass specifically held for the sick, along with the sacrament of the sick
- e. Holy Communion taken by parishioners to the sick of the parish
- f. Holy Communion taken by parishioners to those hospitalized
- g. Presentations for entertainment, for example, where friends and neighbors who are not Catholic are invited to attend
- h. Parishioners living a sacramental life
- i. Parish Bulletin
- j. Welcome Desk in Church Entry
- k. Facebook postings

## 2B. Challenges St. Scholastica Faces Regarding Evangelization

- a. How to increase the number of Catholics who have drifted away to return
- b. How to increase our outward proclamation of the sacraments
- c. How to increase the number of parishioners in all vocations of the church including volunteers, lay ministers, deacons, and priests

## 2C. Initiatives/Goals

- a. Ask active members to advise parish leaders on how to encourage "lost" members to return
- b. Find new and effective methods of communication that are effective in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- c. Personally invite parish members to volunteer and serve as lay ministers
- d. Encourage those who show an interest in being a deacon or priest to learn the required abilities and pursue their vocation if they feel God's calling
- e. Be aware of all the goodness parishioners provide our Catholic Community and the community in which they live

### 3. CHARITY

- a. Go outside your church doors to care for people in need
- b. Advocate for and with people in need as the Gospel instructs us

#### 3A. St. Scholastica Activities Regarding Charity

- a. Many of our parishioners volunteer at the West Suburban Pantry
- b. Our parish provides Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to those in need as identified by the West Suburban Pantry
- c. Our parish supports the requested needs of the West Suburban Pantry
- d. Parishioners participate in the charity activities of the CCW
- e. We support Daybreak Transitional Housing and have 2 families in residence
- f. We participate in the clothing and household drives of the St. Vincent DePaul organization
- g. Roger's Writers attend to some of the incarcerated men and women
- h. We have a Bereavement Group to assist those coping with the loss of loved ones
- i. We have a Boy Scout and Girl Scout group who learn the skills of being responsible children for their church, community, and country
- j. Men's Scripture Study Group assists a local mission in serving lunch to the poor
- k. The Storm Youth Group volunteer to help those in need of assistance with projects they can no longer do alone, like raking leaves, cutting grass, etc.

#### 3B. Challenges St. Scholastica Faces Regarding Charity

- a. To maintain our high level of commitment to all the programs we are currently involved in
- b. To not overlook other opportunities to help those whose lives we can impact
- c. Increase the number of participants in activities

#### 3C. Initiatives/Goals

- a. Ask other members of our parish to participate as needed in these activities. A good place to do this is at our Hospitality Sundays
- b. Tell members of St. Scholastica where the need for volunteers is greatest
- c. Coordinate our efforts throughout all the Parish Council Commissions, so there is no duplication of planning and services
- d. Be flexible so that as unique and new opportunities arise to help our Community or that of Woodridge, we are able to respond

#### **4. Accomplishment of Initiatives/Goals**

We have already begun to implement our ideas for the present and future and anticipate that the efforts will be on going and evaluated every year by the Parish Council at the beginning of their new year in September.