

**ST. ANGELA MERICI CATHOLIC CHURCH
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON**

INAUGURAL PASTORAL PLAN

2015-2016





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I. INTRODUCTION OF THE ST. ANGELA MERICI PASTORAL PLAN

The pastoral council of St. Angela Merici is honored to present our inaugural pastoral plan for the continuous development of our new parish community in Missouri City, which was established in 2007. Under the current leadership of Fr. John Cahoon and our founding pastor, Fr. John Rooney, the pastoral council has worked diligently with various committees, parishioners, ministry leaders, and diocesan personnel to create the inaugural pastoral plan for St. Angela Merici Catholic Church.

Our inaugural plan is inspired and in alignment with the Archdiocese's plan for Galveston-Houston under the leadership of Daniel Cardinal DiNardo. The concept of the *spirituality of communion* presented by Pope John Paul II is the foundation and guiding principle behind the archdiocese's plan. The spirituality of communion can be described as follows:

*This **spirituality of communion** indicates above all the heart's contemplation of the mystery of the Trinity dwelling in us, and whose light we must also be able to see shining on the faces of the brothers and sisters around us. A **spirituality of communion** also means an ability to think of our brothers and sisters in faith within the profound unity of the Mystical Body, and therefore as "those who are a part of me." This makes us able to share their joys and sufferings, to sense their desires and attend to their needs, to offer them deep and genuine friendship. A **spirituality of communion** implies also the ability to see what is positive in others, to welcome it and prize it as a gift from God: not only as a gift for the brother or sister who has received it directly, but also as a "gift from me."*¹

As Catholic Christians, we are called to grow and serve one another while continuing to learn more about our faith and to evangelize about our faith with all brothers and sisters. We are called to do this with the Trinity dwelling within each of us. This is the foundation for our mission which is described in Section 3 of our pastoral plan. Not only is our parish community experiencing extreme growth in the area, but the entire archdiocese will be experiencing unprecedented growth over the next two decades. The goals outlined within this plan not only support the growth of our parish needs, but allows for opportunity for social outreach, pastoral care and evangelization outside of our parish as the archdiocese continues to grow.

Our diverse parish community is a wonderful microcosm of our growing population in the archdiocese. We are honored to help support the growth of our community and archdiocese as we strive to meet our parish's needs. In turn, our parishioners and surrounding community will have an enriched Christian experience. We look forward to each parishioner feeling empowered to use his or her strengths to help achieve our overall mission and goals established within this plan.

¹ "Fostering a Spirituality of Communion" – Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Pastoral Plan



II. ROLE OF THE PARISHIONER

At the end of our liturgy, we are sent forth to “...go in peace to love and serve the Lord (and one another).” These words and the words of Scripture encourage us -- indeed commission us -- to turn our faith into action. As you read through this plan, consider prayerfully what you, your family and your fellow parishioners can collectively do to make our parish everything that God intends for it to be.

- **Read** the plan and **study** the goals and objectives looking for opportunities for you and your family to contribute.
- **Pray** for insights into where you can share your time and talent.
- **Discern** how best to proceed with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- **Act** by committing your God-given gifts in one or more goals or objectives.

You, your family and your fellow parishioners are blessed with God-given gifts and talents. Our Parish will move ever closer to God’s plan for each of us, when we are open to following where the Spirit leads. Our Baptism makes us children of God – in community with and for others.

Our Pastor and clergy will be our spiritual guides. The Pastor and clergy, in their unique roles as ordained members of the Body of Christ, will minister to parishioners through the celebration of liturgy, sacraments and prayer. Our parish staff is a resource as well. Directors of individual ministries are ready, willing and able to support parishioners in participating in existing ministries, as well as create new ministerial opportunities.

This plan provides you with opportunities to live the grace received in the sacrament of Baptism, through the actions that you take within our Church. The core beliefs of our faith provide the grace that will allow us to fulfill the elements of the plan.²

Listen to the Spirit.

Allow the Spirit to move you into true action.

² “The Role of the Parishioner” was a well written excerpt from Good Shepard Catholic Church’s 2008 Pastoral Plan in Alexandria, VA



III. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement was prepared by members of the pastoral council along with St. Angela Merici's founding pastor to reflect and represent the parish community and the overall mission for our newly created parish. The mission statement was collaboratively created to reflect a unified family that aligns with Christ's overall teachings and actions. This mission statement was officially prepared and finalized in April 2013.

St. Angela Merici Catholic Church in Missouri City, TX is a diverse community, united in the Mission of Christ through the Eucharist, proclamation of the Gospel and service to the people of God.



IV. PASTORAL PLAN GOALS

The goals for the inaugural pastoral plan for St. Angela Merici Catholic Church are based on the various needs of the parish and gathered from conversations and data collection from various resources within the parish community which include our pastor, parish staff, various leaders of ministry within the parish from liturgy, music and service organizations, and from formed committees. These goals have been developed and finalized through consensus among the pastoral council members in November 2014. These goals are planned with a three to five year outlook. The list of goals for the inaugural pastoral plan is outlined below.

- I. *To expand the overall campus facilities and infrastructure through planning and building so that we can provide an improved place for worship, religious education, and social/hospitality activities*
- II. *To establish a formal social outreach ministry for the parish with focus to increase parish participation with social outreach in our community*
- III. *To develop and support a formal pastoral care ministry in our parish that reaches out to those who need comfort and assistance*
- IV. *To support current faith formation programs and identify opportunities for further development in religious education for adults and children*
- V. *To increase evangelization and awareness of our new parish community within the growing area of Missouri City for all Catholics and non-Catholics*
- VI. *To increase and develop fundraising or financial development opportunities to help support the growing needs of our parish*

In order to meet these goals, the pastoral council members worked with various committees to formulate objectives that will allow for better direction toward meeting these goals. These objectives provide opportunities for our parish community to work together in conjunction with the Holy Spirit to achieve extraordinary measures. The objectives that support these six goals will be outlined in the next section. The council carefully considered these goals as priorities for the parish that will lead to an environment for prayer, worship, fellowship, evangelization, service and spiritual growth.



V. OBJECTIVES OUTLINED FOR GOALS

The purpose of this section is to provide a layout of critical objectives that should be implemented in order to achieve the goals outlined in the previous section. These objectives were determined by a variety of committees formed to help achieve the goals outlined in the pastoral plan.

1. To expand the overall campus facilities and infrastructure through planning and building so that we can provide an improved place for worship, religious education, and social/hospitality activities

Objectives for Goal I.

- a. Form a committee of 5 to 7 parishioners that offer expertise in construction, architecture, education, parish history, and building planning by October 2014
- b. Select a design firm to assist the committee with information gathering, designing and planning adjustments, surveys, and next phase of building by November 2014
- c. Conduct a parish wide survey with selected design firm to get input on the next phase of expansion based on an approved loan amount from the diocese by December 2014
- d. Work with selected design firm, pastor, staff, and committee to update the St. Angela Merici Master Plan and define a proposed Phase II project by March 2015
- e. Consider and interview at least 3 construction firms to execute the building of the next phase by April 2015
- f. Get approval for loan to support next building phase through the Archdiocese by May 2015.
- g. Prepare and complete construction documents by November 2015
- h. Receive the guaranteed maximum pricing and permits to begin construction by late December 2015
- i. Break ground on Phase II construction by January 2016 pending receipt of the permit.
- j. Complete construction of Phase II facilities by January 2017
- k. Form a capital campaign committee to help begin preparations for next phase of contributions for 2017 by October 2016.



II. To establish a formal social outreach ministry for the parish with focus to increase parish participation with social outreach in our community

Objectives for Goal II.

- a. Explore avenues in forming Social Outreach Ministry. Meet with Executive Director and Director of Vincentian Services for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) as an external service organization for this ministry by April 2015.
- b. Obtain Pastor agreement on which approach to social outreach ministry serves best for St. Angela Merici parish and related funding source by June 2015.
- c. Gain pastoral council agreement to financially fund the works of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Angela Merici by having a dedicated collection and providing an allowance for conference to assist in the surrounding communities also in June 2015
- d. Schedule a representative from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to do a 3 minute announcement from the pulpit in the summer of 2015 inviting all interested parishioners to an informational session on a weekday and a Saturday of the following week. Representatives will also stay after masses to answer questions and invite again those interested in participating. This will aid in the recruitment of volunteers from St. Angela Merici Parish to lead and participate in social outreach beginning no later than July 2015. Notices will be provided in the weekend bulletins
- e. Develop and train volunteers on social outreach ministry no later than September 2015, but after the July recruitment process. Development and formation of the group will start on a weekday the week of July 6, 2015 and will continue for 5 consecutive weeks. Ozanam Orientation, which covers the Society's history, heritage, home visits and basics of understanding poverty, will be included in the formation sessions. Dates will be determined by the group.
- f. SVDP Conference at St. Angela Merici will provide financial assistance in the surrounding communities according to guidelines and available resources. The Conference decides as a group how much and how often they will provide assistance
- g. Define longer term goals in February 2016 once ministry is established.



III. To develop and support a formal pastoral care ministry in our parish that reaches out to those who need comfort and assistance

Objectives for Goal III.

- a. Prepare and send forth Eucharistic Ministers to the sick and homebound within the parish and in nearby extended care facilities with the purpose of serving their sacramental needs and maintaining their connection with our community by March 2015.
- b. Recruit and train additional pastoral care volunteers to provide social support to the sick and homebound and other suffering members of our community through visits, meals, chores, errands, etc. by June 2015.
- c. Begin preparation for the addition of a staff position, titled Pastoral Care Coordinator, to integrate and coordinate all pastoral care activities to insure the needs of the parishioners while respecting and maintaining confidentiality. The candidate search and hiring date is dependent upon approval from the pastor and the Finance Council to support this position as a paid employee. This process will begin in July 2015.
- d. Develop a comprehensive parish bereavement ministry that includes end-of-life preparation, funeral planning, ministries of care and concern including meals and hospitality, ongoing regular contact and support, grief counseling and support groups and prayer no earlier than July 2016, or one year after the hiring of a Pastoral Care Coordinator as a staff position.
- e. Identify and provide parish support for those individuals called to Spiritual Direction Ministry and training at the Spiritual Direction Institute as an ongoing endeavor.
- f. Catechize all parishioners regarding our belief that *“If one member suffers in the body of Christ, which is the Church, all the members suffer with him”* (1Cor 12:26) as an ongoing endeavor.



IV. To support current faith formation programs and identify opportunities for further development in religious education for adults and children

Objectives for Goal IV.

The following objectives are meant to be a focus through 2018 as the facilities are limited and will be going through significant expansion over the next two years. Once the next phase is completed, these objectives will be revisited.

- a. Increase religious education staff in Spring 2015 by hiring a dedicated youth minister for religious education.
- b. Develop catechetical training and provide catechetical resources for our Catechists teaching children, teens, adults and Sacramental preparation.
- c. Cultivate online educational opportunities and resources for adult faith formation and make available on our website for parishioners.
- d. Develop a young adult group to encourage faith formation and fellowship
- e. Foster relationships with the teens and create an environment and space within the parish where teens feel comfortable and have a sense of belonging.
- f. Develop a welcoming atmosphere with intentional outreach, mass aides, and informational programs teaching the basics of the Catholic faith for those interested in coming home to the Church or wanting to grow in their faith.



V. To increase evangelization and awareness of our new parish community within the growing area of Missouri City for all Catholics and non-Catholics

Objectives for Goal V.

- a. Adapt the New Evangelization encouraged by the Pope and Paulist Evangelization Ministries Mission by developing effective methods that will invite people to believe in Jesus Christ as Catholics or become active again in the Catholic faith. Necessary tools to further the invitation will be provided.
- b. Form an Evangelization Committee inclusive of all parish ministries. This committee will represent the diversity of the church community (in progress).
- c. Encourage our ministry leaders to identify existing activities within the parish that offer opportunities for evangelizing. Our priests, representatives from the Archdiocese and public speakers with experience in evangelization will be invited to participate in this evaluation. This will be an ongoing process and put into full effect in 2016.
- d. Develop a genuine welcoming culture that people will respond to positively and feel empowered to spread throughout the church community. This will begin with an assessment of how we currently welcome visitors and register new members (in progress)
- e. Increase parishioner registration by at least 25% based on 2015 registered families. Accomplished by beginning of 2017.
- f. Create a simple and clear message that will stimulate and enlighten the knowledge of the gospel to our community. We will utilize mission statements of evangelization such as, “**Who is Jesus for you?**” or “**Know your faith... Live your faith... Share your faith**”. Process will begin by Summer 2015 and will continue to be evaluated in 2016.
- g. Establish at least 5 small groups to be evangelizers, evangelized or both during each religious season. These groups will be comprised of all ages, gender, and ethnicity. Accomplished by May 2016
- h. Establish a marketing program for St. Angela Merici to promote awareness in the Missouri City community. Process will begin by Summer 2015.
- i. Access social media for evangelization. Send weekly tweets quoting Pope Francis’ recent homily, teaching and witness. Post or stream presiding priest’s homily on the internet. Identify a social media expert of the parish who may volunteer for this project. Project will begin Summer 2015.



- j. Give parishioners and non-parishioners a voice. Surveys will be distributed on a quarterly basis to determine the needs of all individuals and established groups. Encourage an open door policy and accessibility by pastor and staff for parishioner feedback. This is ongoing.

VI. To increase and develop fundraising or financial development opportunities to help support the growing needs of our parish

Objectives for Goal VI.

- a. Form a committee of 5 to 8 Parishioners that offer expertise in fund raising, relevant in social outreach, proven business background, strong execution skills and socially connected both inside the parish and outside by January 2015.
- b. Kick off 2015 slow and steady raise \$5K and limit the amount of fund raisers to two.
- c. Increase the amount of diversified events, while increasing money raised each year to reach the 2019 goal to \$100K.
 - 2015 goal - \$5,000
 - 2016 goal - \$10,000
 - 2017 goal - \$20,000
 - 2018 goal - \$40,000
 - 2019 goal - \$100,000
- d. Put the FUN back into Fund-raising by creating unity and fellowship throughout our parish.
- e. Introduce/expand awareness and attract new parishioners to St Angela Merici by opening our fund raisers and fellowship to all Catholics and Non Catholics.
- f. Partner and work closely with all support groups within the parish. Develop mega-fund raisers that include but not limit Knights of Columbus, Women of the Vine and Evangelistic Committees.



VI. CONCLUSION OF PASTORAL PLAN BY OUR PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Several years ago the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council undertook pastoral planning for the Archdiocese under Cardinal DiNardo. At the conclusion of their planning they recommended to the Cardinal that all of the parishes of the Archdiocese also undertake planning in light of the document that they developed. That process was already under way at St. Angela Merici when I was appointed pastor in July of 2014. I am pleased to say that we have concluded that process and the above is the application of the Archdiocesan plan to our parish ministries. We have endeavored to encompass every aspect of parish life. It is our hope that each and every parishioner of St. Angela Merici will be able to contribute his or her time, talent or treasure to the accomplishment of our goals. We have already been blessed to know that the expansion of our physical facilities will now proceed, but a parish is more than bricks and mortar. The true life blood of a parish is the involvement of its members.

You may have noticed that when I speak of St. Angela Merici parish I use the words of community and family. That is what I hope we are truly trying to build here at our parish. Everything we do here is merely an outgrowth of our mission as Catholic Christians. I was recently reminded of the beautiful words of our patron saint. In one of her Counsels, St. Angela is quoted as saying; *“Act, move, believe, strive, hope, cry out to Him with all your heart. For without doubt you will see marvelous things, if you direct everything to the praise and glory of His majesty and the good of souls.”* This exhortation perfectly captures what we as a parish are trying to accomplish. Please help us to do so, and please help us to know if we are succeeding in doing so.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. John E. Cahoon