



Your pastoral council is pleased to offer this annual progress report (May 2016 to May 2017) regarding the execution and progress of the inaugural pastoral plan. The official planning began in 2014 under our pastor, Fr. John Cahoon, and the plan was officially published to the parish in May 2015. The inaugural plan can be found on our parish website along with last year's progress report.

The Pastoral Plan focuses on six general areas identified by the pastor, the pastoral council, and parish staff based on the needs of the parish. The six focus areas are Parish Expansion, Evangelization, Fundraising & Fellowship, Religious Education, Pastoral Care, and Social Outreach. Each focus area aligned with the overall Archdiocese's Pastoral Plan – *Fostering a Spirituality of Communion* while still addressing the needs of our growing parish.



We thank all committee members and parishioners who have supported our progress toward meeting the parish goals defined in our plan over the past 3 years. As you will observe, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved in parish life and contribute. The progress made was directly tied to your efforts and sacrifices toward improving our parish, St. Angela Merici.

Your Pastoral Council,

Christopher Agostinelli, Tom Mathew, Jackie Burkhalter, Yolanda Choates, Melwyn Machado, Gloria Mallett, Jill Menendez, and Tom Kircher

SOCIAL OUTREACH

In March 2015, St. Angela Merici Catholic Church began plans to establish a formal Social Outreach Ministry. Our parish is pleased to have accomplished all of our objectives in the Pastoral Plan by forming a Conference under the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, District #2.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Galveston-Houston is a grassroots, volunteer-based, direct-aid organization that helps people in need get back on their feet. We provide short-term financial, material, and emotional support and work person-to-person through advocacy, education and referral efforts to break cycles of poverty, empower people and promote self-sufficiency.

From May 2016 through March 2017, our St. Angela Merici SVDP Conference has provided help to our community by assisting approximately 180 people. Through funds donated from our generous parishioners we have given aid to our impoverished friends by helping with

rent, utilities, food, clothing and furniture in the approximate amount of \$30,000.00. Our St. Angela SVDP Conference utilizes a content management system (CMS) and has taken the lead in training other SVDP conferences (in our District #2) on this data entry program. We currently have 15 Vincentian volunteers in our conference (all are not active) and will continue to gain experience with home visits and expose the community to the faith, love and generosity of our St. Angela Merici Parish. Please check the bulletin or visit the parish website if you are interested in getting involved with our social outreach initiatives.



PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

There has been great progress in developing a formal pastoral care ministry at St. Angela Merici and reaching out to those in need during the past two years.

Ministries to provide pastoral care of St. Angela's parishioners have continued to grow and thrive during the past year. Highlights toward the fulfillment of the objectives specified in St. Angela's Pastoral Plan include the following:

- A brochure outlining Pastoral Care Ministries was developed in order to increase parishioner awareness and access to the various types of care. The brochure is available at the PLC, in the parish office, and in welcome packets.

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(Pastoral Care Ministry, continued)

- Teams from St. Angela Merici continue to provide weekly Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick and Homebound at Autumn Leaves Memory Care Facility, Windsor-Quail Valley Post-Acute Health Care Center and Chelsea Gardens Rehabilitation Center, including monthly Mass at Windsor-Quail Valley. It is expected that by year end a total of 1,400 visits will have been made.
- Likewise, homebound and sick parishioners are visited weekly, as needed, by our Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick.
- *Seasons of Hope*, St. Angela's bereavement support group program, completed two additional six-week "seasons" so far this year and will start up again in April. Individuals who discover the program is not the right fit at this time for them are offered individual grief counseling or spiritual direction.



Seasons of Hope

Bereavement Support Group

- An annual Mass for those who have lost a child was reinstated this year and offered in November. Many attended the Mass along with breakfast hospitality following it. Both the Pastoral Care Committee and the Spiritual Life Ministry Team participated in offering care and support.
- Three of our fellow parishioners began their three-year formation in spiritual direction ministry this Fall. Please pray for their continued spiritual growth and development



EVANGELIZATION

St. Angela Merici is paving the road into New Evangelization. Simply put, the new evangelization is living out the faith that draws us closer to Jesus Christ. The Evangelization Team began this period of celebration and efforts to fulfill this mission in November 2016 featuring The Parish Mission. Fr. Bruce Nieli, a Paulist Missionary appointed by Pope Francis, visited our parish representing "The Year of Mercy". Our theme for this mission was called *Responding to The Call of The Spirit...Continuing the Year of Mercy*. Fr. Nieli's mission homilies included three inspiring presentations focusing on The Soul, The Church and The World. Reconciliation was offered as well. The mission was overwhelmingly received by all. Stephanie Weber also lead a six-week series of workshops entitled, "Faces of Mercy" and families offered a day of service to Magnificat House and St. Vincent de Paul as part of the mission. Overall, this incredible collaborative effort was highly supported by over 900 participants.

The most recent project introduced to the church is BUILD—"*Bring Us Into Loving Discipleship*". This program is intentionally tied to our prayer and dedication to the success of our new church facility and family. To date, we have celebrated two Friday nights of Eucharistic Adoration. We began with fellowship and potluck dishes provided by our parishioners. Fr. John and Fr. Joy provided homilies centered around the Eucharistic devotions and their importance to the life of the parish. Songs of praise and worship were provided by Danielle Noonan and other talented guest musicians. The parish support exceeded expectation with over 150 in attendance. The next BUILD will be held on June 3rd, following the Saturday morning Mass, with a procession that will go beyond the church down Sienna Ranch.



The next Evangelization goal is to improve hospitality to new parishioners and those who are considering membership in our church community.

Finally, over the 2016-17 calendar year, our parish has continued to see considerable momentum in other parish ministries. Some of these include That Man Is You (TMiy), which finished it's second full year, Teams of Our Lady (TOOL), and the 2017 St. Angela Merici Women's Retreat, themed *The Grace of Yes*. Finally, approximately 15 men joined together in prayer, fellowship and discussion at Holy Name Retreat Center this past March.

PARISH EXPANSION

The building committee was initiated and assembled in September 2014. The 2016-17 calendar year has been an extremely busy and fulfilling year for the building committee as we see construction taking place on our parish property.

From the voice of the parish survey in late 2014, the biggest need identified by our parishoners was the need for the new church. We were able to focus on 9 of the top 10 items identified by our parish survey in the phase of our build out led by our architect, Steve Lucchesi. It was important to the committee to hear the parishoners' voice when designing a church building and understanding really what the parish wanted in its next phase of the master plan build out.

Construction of the church and administration building commenced simultaneously in November 2016. As of preparation time of this report, construction of both structures is progressing at the expected rate and we are on track to be complete by the end of November 2017 as scheduled. The administration building will likely be completed well before the November 2017 expected completion of the church. As soon as occupancy is granted to begin using the church, remodeling of the Parish Life Center will commence to convert that structure for expanded classroom and office usage. During that construction phase, the Parish Life Center will not be available for use and we will need to endure some inconvenience during that time. The future benefits will make this well worth it.

The interior rendering shown to the parish is a fairly accurate depiction of how the completed sanctuary will look. Careful consideration through an extensive selection process was undertaken to provide pews that possess the best combination of comfort and durability possible. Each pew end face will have the San Damiano Cross carved in the center. The kneelers will be padded. Although somewhat limited by budget constraints, the new sanctuary interior will be pleasing in appearance and practical in function. Two statues will be included, along with Stations of the Cross and a 14-foot San Damiano crucifix above



the altar to keep our identity and continuity based on our history of St. Angela Merici. The altar and ambo will be reflective of the design of the sanctuary interior and provide flexibility for later enhancements, should funds become available in the future.

One of many highlights of the interior is the design of our new stained glass windows. The Building Committee, Sandra Derby and Father John went to great lengths to find an artist of high quality that also understood the identity of our parish and who would listen to the voice of our parishoners. After a lengthy process, including many renderings, modifications and detail refinements, the images were finalized in March 2017 and are in production. The stained glass windows will be protected on the outside by clear glass in window frames. The Committee feels the final stained glass renderings reflect the vibrant culture of St. Angela Merici Parish. One of the design goals was to keep the interior of the sanctuary as bright as possible with natural light.

Both the new church and administration buildings have been designed to match and complement the design of the PLC. The administration building mirrors the PLC and will be connected with a new walkway. The parking lot expansion is complete and provides an additional entrance/exit. In addition to expanding parking capacity, this provides parking that is more centrally located in relation to the sanctuary, resulting in a greater number of convenient parking spaces. This, combined with more entrance/exit doors on the church, will improve flow in and out of Masses.

In conclusion, the parish has graciously pledged an initial \$3.9 million to begin paying off our loan of \$11 million to the Archdiocese. This figure represented 44% of the total parish families.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. Angela Merici had another fantastic year in Faith Formation! Our church educated 653 students in our Kids Club, Edge, and LifeTeen programs. Also, 98 students celebrated their First Reconciliation and First Communion and 74 students celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation. In our Adult Education programs, we were able to provide education programs for 28 candidates in our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children, and Adult Confirmation classes! Other areas to celebrate are in our weekly programs offered at St. Angela Merici like our Bible Study Group and That Man is You! Both are very popular and members are committed weekly to their success. As we close the year, it is great to note that the majority of our catechists will be returning next year!

A few highlights this year would be in the celebration of the Family Advent Retreat and Lenten Family Prayer such as Lenten daily reflections and Soup and Stations. Our youth also celebrated Good Friday with the Living Stations of the Cross.

As we prepare for the upcoming year, we are looking forward to the Archdiocese's upcoming rewriting of the curriculum framework. There will be exciting and engaging updates to this curriculum. Goals for the following year include creating:

1. A Catholicism 101 series. It would be a six week course that will be held twice a year.
2. A Seniors Group (50+)
3. More Family Catechetical enriching programs.

In conclusion, St. Angela Merici's Faith Formation programs are growing rapidly, because we are a growing community with so many blessings to share.

FUNDRAISING & FELLOWSHIP

The 2016-17 calendar year provided parishoners many opportunities to grow in fellowship and family. The parish continued events such as the annual **FUNrai\$ing** event, and Trunk or Treat, but also incorporated some first-time events this past year. A summary of some of these activities are below.

St. Angela Merici started a **FUNrai\$ing** committee in early 2015 with the mission of creating fun, fellowship while raising money for parish initiatives.

The St. Angela Merici **FUNrai\$ing** committee planned and executed our 2nd annual evening of fun, fellowship and fundraising which raised \$41,535 toward our Capital Campaign. The *Denim & Diamonds* event at Quail Valley Country Club was a huge success, and there was non-stop talk by the attendees about the wonderful food, dancing, gaming, and auction. The draw down was a huge hit with two winners walking out with \$7,500 and \$2,500, respectively.

The **FUNrai\$ing** committee are in full swing planning our 3rd annual event, *Den-*

im & Diamonds, scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2017. Tickets for the event are available online, and draw down tickets can be purchased at each mass during the month of May. We hope that you plan to join us for a wonderful evening of fellowship as well as purchase a chance to win big money!



This past calendar year also allowed for expansion in the area of parish fun, family, and fellowship. A committee was formed to kick off the first ever St. Angela Merici Gumbo Cook-off where the proceeds will benefit our youth and their summer trip for a Steubenville conference. Fifteen of the finest gumbo chefs volunteered their time to support a wonderful event on a beautiful February 2017 Saturday afternoon. The fifteen groups reached back into their favorite Cajun recipe books to compete for the title of Best Parish Gumbo. Families also had fun-

filled activities and the turnout was excellent.



The parish also continued its traditional *Trunk or Treat* Halloween event which allows families and kids to come out to see creative Halloween decor of many parishoners' vehicles, as well as observe all the wonderful creative costumes that are worn by our kids (and even some adults and clergymen.)

The parish also held its annual Easter Egg hunt for our youngsters under the age of 9.

Finally, John Masterson planned the first ever parish family movie night on the hill at the Sienna Plantation amphitheater last September.

Thank you to all of the parishoners, organizations and sponsors who make these events very successful and memorable!!!