



St. Angela Merici Catholic Church

St. Angela Merici Pastoral Council Progress Report

Your pastoral council is pleased to offer this update on the execution and progress of the inaugural pastoral plan. The plan was officially published to the parish in May 2015 and focused on six 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 this progress toward meeting our goals defined in our plan. The progress made was directly tied to your efforts and sacrifices toward improving our parish.

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, 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.

Filled with the Holy Spirit and through the prayers of our parish family, we have 15 Vincentian volunteers who have joined our Conference, with an elected President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Spiritual Advisor. Our Conference has worked hard in 2015 and 2016 to organize and form. In May 2016, the Conference will initially serve, through home visits, the immediate parish area and the Fresno zip code 77545. The Conference will also serve anyone seeking help who comes our way. Funds used for servicing these needs primarily come from donations through monthly collections.

Upcoming goals for the next 12 months will be for each Vincentian to gain experience with home visits, expose the community of faith to the work of our Conference, and increase Vincentian volunteers by 10% yearly.

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

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

In terms of Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick and Homebound, sixteen ministers were trained in May 2015. An additional workshop was offered in September and an appreciation luncheon was held in April.

While most serve on a variable and as-requested basis to homes and the hospital, five Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick serve weekly at three extended care facilities and between May 1, 2015 and May 1, 2016 they made 1,326 Eucharistic visits. *(continued on next page)*

(Pastoral Care continued...) Fr. John has offered Mass each third Wednesday of the month at one of the facilities and plans are underway to extend this to the other two facilities. Three additional Eucharistic Ministers have recently been added to this group to insure adequate coverage each week. In addition to Eucharistic Ministry, two Masses with an Anointing of the Sick, followed by a light brunch, were offered during this past year. Many requests for prayers for the sick have been responded to through the Prayer Chain and the bulletin listing.

Another significant objective for the past year was to initiate a comprehensive bereavement ministry. The Seasons of Hope Bereavement Support Group Program was selected by St. Angela's. Two trainings were conducted for 11 volunteers, seven of whom are active. Two six-week "Seasons" have been completed for a total of 15 participants. A gathering for all the participants and volunteers was held in May at Spring Creek Barbecue. Season 3 begins June 5th 2016. Other bereavement support activities have included the offering of Masses on the anniversary dates of parishioners who have passed away since 2011 in the parish. We also continue to provide a brunch or luncheon following funerals at our parish.

Finally, progress has also been made in identifying those who may be called to Spiritual Direction Ministry. It is anticipated that three parishioners will begin formation at the Spiritual Direction Institute

EVANGELIZATION

The parish's goal is to increase evangelization and awareness of our new parish community within our growing area of Missouri City for all Catholics and non-Catholics.

An evangelization committee was formed to adapt the New Evangelization encouraged by Pope Francis, Paulist Evangelization Ministries Mission, and approved by Fr. John for our church community.

Meeting the objectives of our goal began most recently with the success of the invitation to take *The 40 Day Challenge* during the Lenten Season, utilizing the book "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly. A total of 1,500 books were distributed to parishioners following the Christmas masses, and an additional 500 were distributed during first week of Lent. Fr. John held a weekly discussion group focused on the topics covered in "Rediscover Jesus", which offered an opportunity for catechesis and faith development among our parishioners. Deacon Jim Wright included in his homilies an appeal to our parish community to read a chapter each day during the 40 days of Lent...*The 40 Day Challenge!*



The experience has empowered our church community to reflect more deeply on their faith. Parishioners are sharing the messages from the book for family and couple prayer; small groups representing various ministries are using the contents of the book for discussion; and many are sharing their faith life with inactive Catholics and non-Catholics.

We also want to highlight other programs that continue to gain momentum in our parish such as That Man is You and Teams of Our Lady (TOOL), our annual women's retreat in January, and our first ever non-liturgical ministry gathering in November 2015. The success of these programs is so important in spreading the Word of God and supporting each other based on our Christian values.



Our parish mission is scheduled for November 12-16 at St. Angela Merici with Fr. Bruce Nieli, a Paulist Priest commissioned by Pope Francis as a Missionary of Mercy.

PARISH EXPANSION

The building committee was initiated and assembled in September 2014.

This committee has achieved much success and reached several milestones along the way.

The committee worked closely with the parish's architect and fellow parishioner, Steve Lucchesi shortly after its conception in the Fall of 2014. It was important to the committee to hear the congregation's voice when designing a church building and understanding really what the parish wants in its next phase of the master plan build out.

A survey was completed and summarized by January 2015, and overwhelmingly, a church was the most important item voted for on that survey. Even more importantly, the building committee has addressed 9 of the top 10 parish desires identified in the survey by our parishioners in the next phase of the project.

After the survey was completed, the committee chair, pastoral council chair, the finance council, and Fr. John worked closely with the parish staff and was able to secure a \$10 million loan with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to support the next phase of our building plan.

The plan consisted of a new church, a new administration building and a renovation of our current Parish Life Center to better suit our religious education needs. Concurrently with the work on obtaining the loan, the committee interviewed several general contractors recommended by the Archdiocese. After careful deliberation, the committee selected Arch-Con Corporation, who has been involved with the project since the summer of 2015.

In the summer of 2015, the building committee present-



ed the master plans to the parish to generate enthusiasm and to promote our next phase to the community.

From that point on, several revisions and meetings took place focusing on various architectural additions and minor revisions, religious art, liturgical furnishings, audio/visual needs, civil/structural design work, stained glass vendors, etc., while striving to meet our budgetary constraints. Parallel to these meetings, our architect and general contractor has worked closely with the City of Missouri City and SPRAI so that we can begin construction this summer in 2016. We are excited about the groundbreaking which takes place on June 10, 2016 with Archbishop Fiorenza, our clergy, and our wonderful parish community.

Our building committee consists of chairperson Cory Burkhalter, Wendy Fallon, Bob Blair, our parish Administrator Margaret Myers, Finance Council representative Craig Foresman, and Pastoral Council liaisons Christopher Agostinelli and Tom Kircher. Sandra Derby has provided consultation on liturgical needs for the new church. Finally, none of this could have been accomplished without the support of our pastor, Fr. John Cahoon.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education at St. Angela Merici continues to be an on-going success within our church community! We are pleased to announce that John Masterson is our new Director of Faith Formation. He will join the Director of Youth Ministry, Rebecca Jankowski, and the Coordinator of Kids Club, Deb Bingham in helping to build our Religious Education program. In the 2015-2016 school year, our children's programs (Kids Club, Edge, and Life Teen) have educated and prepared over 1,000 children for a better understanding of our Catholic faith. These programs educate kindergartners through high school students. The Kids Club program helped prepare 70 children this year in the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. ... *(continued on next page)*

(Religious Education continued...)

In Life Teen, our teachers have helped to prepare over 50 young adults in reconfirming their faith through the sacrament of Confirmation in May. Although these numbers are examples of our successful programs, the foundation and backbone of these programs are the volunteers! Recently, our church had a Teacher Appreciation dinner for our volunteer teachers. We are also happy to announce that the majority of these volunteers will be returning next year. In regards to our volunteer teachers, one goal of our Religious Education Program Directors is to plan and create more training for our teachers. As a result, the teachers will be better equipped with added knowledge to help continue to teach the Catholic faith to the youth of our community. Our Vacation Bible School during the summer continues to be a success. This program will be registering for enrollment in June and continues to help create an enthusiastic environment for learning during the summer!

On another note, St. Angela Merici has formed a Faith Formation Council that consist of parents, church leaders, and teacher volunteers to help guide and access the needs of our education programs. This council meets regularly and continues to help oversee these programs. Recently, an Adult Faith Formation Committee was formed to help focus on the continuing education of our Catholic faith to the adults in our community. This committee was formed to help build a multi-demographic church, with the idea that our community of faith believers will continue to seek knowledge of our faith well past our youth programs.

Finally, our RCIA program, under the leadership of Sara and Greg Montgomery, continues to thrive in our parish. We continue to welcome and educate those parishoners choosing to join our faith and be fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

FUNDRAISING & FELLOWSHIP

St. Angela Merici started a FUNraising committee about a year and a half ago to orchestrate events that are geared towards fun, fellowship and in the process, raise a little money for our parish.

Our first FUNraiser was in June 2015. It was a warm summer night at the Sienna Golf Club that had dinner, DJ and dancing, a wine pull, silent auction and a draw down.

We raised \$17,000 for our parish. This year, under the leadership of Sharon Benson, the committee has been hard at work since September 2015. There is an amazing evening planned at the Quail Valley City Center themed "Denim and Diamonds"



on Saturday, June 18th from 7:00 till 11:00 p.m. We will again have a DJ and dancing, a silent auction, wine pull, draw down for a chance at \$7,500 or \$2,500 and a real Texas barbecue dinner.

We have added to this a casino night with a host of gaming tables. This is where you come in. We need you, our parishioners to make this night of FUNraising a success.

Please purchase a ticket from a committee member or after a mass. The

ticket price is \$75 per person. We are also selling draw down tickets for \$100.00 each with only a small number being sold which increases your chances of winning.

Sponsorships are available ranging from \$250 up to \$2500. Throw on your jeans, a cowboy hat and for you ladies your most sparkly jewels and come to this event, have fun, mingle with your fellow parishioners and neighbors. This is what we call FUNraising!

