

Pastoral Plan for the Hispanic Community of Blessed Sacrament Church

Our plan is primarily an academic one, focused on the education and development of Blessed Sacrament's parishioners so that they may raise children, families and communities with deeper faith, integrity, compassion and catholic values for a better world. Its components also provide our community the opportunity to meet and share with fellow parishioners who share their culture and/or language. Non-Hispanics fluent in Spanish who want to practice their language skills are more than welcome. All components are conducted in Spanish.

Component #1: Continuing Education

1. Catholicism Classes based on the television series and curriculum of Father Robert Barron
 - a. Frequency: Once every 3 weeks, depending on the time of year; on average, one meeting per month
 - b. Expected time period: June 2013 – April 2015
2. Classes on History of the Church
 - a. Frequency: Once every 3 weeks, depending on the time of year; on average one meeting per month
 - b. Expected time period: May 2015 – October 2015
3. Practical Theology Classes
 - a. Frequency: Once every 3 weeks, depending on the time of year; on average one meeting per month
 - b. Expected time period: November 2015 – June 2016

Component #2: Ministry Classes and community programs

Theology and liturgy education program that combines theory with practice; it is geared towards parishioners with a calling for serving in the liturgical and pastoral life of the Church.

1. Ministry classes
 - a. Frequency: Once per month
 - b. Expected time period: Approximately six months, 2015
2. Altar Service program
3. Service to the elderly program
4. Service to kids in need program

Component #3: Advocacy Programs

This component is dedicated to the study of specific themes relevant to the church community; for example, Women and their role in the family unit.

- a. Frequency: Ad-hoc
- b. Expected time period: One year, 2015

Component #4: Offsites

This component is an opportunity for interested parishioners to step away from the routine and stresses of everyday life for one weekend; the groups work on their faith and spirituality under the guidance of Father Alexis Bastidas.

1. "Cacique" Offsite, Dominican Republic. This event is geared towards a select group of successful businessmen who have been friends of Father Alexis over his 21 years of service. These members are good friends but reside in various countries throughout the world, including Argentina, Colombia, Panama, UK, USA and Venezuela. Their financial

support is key to the success of many projects Father Alexis is involved in, such as “Behold the Divine / Eco Divino”, J.Joy and most recently the live streaming of Blessed Sacrament’s 11AM Sunday mass.

- a. Frequency: Bi-monthly
2. NY State Offsite. This event is geared towards interested local parishioners of Blessed Sacrament.
 - a. Frequency: Once a year, the weekend before Thanksgiving

Component #5: Creation of new opportunities to celebrate our faith in Spanish at Blessed Sacrament Church, supported by an organized group of acolytes

1. Advent season masses, followed by prayers of the rosary
2. Christmas mass
3. Renew the list of acolytes in our community and select a leader in order to better organize ourselves for assistance at every mass

Component #6: On-line outreach

Since 2008, Father Alexis has been regularly producing a series of videos in Spanish for his large community of followers, called “Eco Divino.” Their content is broadcast daily in the NY metropolitan area through WADO 1280 radio station. The videos are also distributed daily to e-mail subscribers and through Father Alexis’ NY Gente YouTube Channel, which has over 1 million visitors.

These videos not only serve as daily spiritual support for all of Father Alexis’ followers, but they also help spread the word and popularity of Blessed Sacrament Church and its Hispanic community beyond the Manhattan area. Many visitors from outside of Manhattan County attend Father Alexis’ 11AM Sunday mass on a weekly basis to hear his homilies in person.

Component #7: Ad-hoc Social and Cultural Events

Lastly, members of the vibrant Hispanic community at Blessed Sacrament organize special social and cultural events from time to time. We are always open to continuing this tradition. Listed below is a list of some of the events organized by the community over the last decade:

1. Launch of book “Behold the Divine / Eco Divino”
 - a. September 2012, 1st edition
 - b. November 2013, 2d edition
2. Social Events to celebrate 30 Years together, August 2012
 - a. Evening party and video production at Havana Club
 - b. Release of classic Christian songs CD by Blessed Sacrament ‘s 11AM mass music band
 - c. Afternoon for the kids at Central Park
3. Art classes project in conjunction with The Legionaries of Christ, March 2011
4. World Concert Series
 - a. Fado Concert, June 2010
 - b. Brazilian Choro Concert, April 2010
 - c. Evening with the Music from Argentina – From Gardel to Piazzolla, February 2010
 - d. Aquiles Baez Trio Concert, October 2009
5. Ilan Chester concert, October 2007
6. Simón Diaz concert and celebration, September 2005