SAINT JULIANA PARISH:
CONSECRATED IN TRUTH AND IN MISSION

A PASTORAL PLAN FOR 2012-2017
SAINT JULIANA PARISH: CONSECRATED IN TRUTH AND IN MISSION
A PASTORAL PLAN FOR 2012-2017

From your Pastor

I present to you our Parish’s Pastoral Plan for 2012-2017, with my prayers that you will read it carefully and consider how we can all be more fully a part of the life of St. Juliana Parish in the coming years. I want to thank all who have helped to bring this plan to you, especially the members of our Parish Pastoral Council, whose names appear on the back page. I look forward to working with the Parish and School staff, clergy, religious and lay employees and volunteers, and with all of you, to put into practice the commitments you see below.

We cannot do all of this on our own. We can only do it with God’s help, and supporting one another. To paraphrase what is said to those to be ordained, to those making religious profession, and to those about to about to become Catholics: May God, who has begun the good work in us, bring it to completion (cf. Philippians 1:6).

In Christ,

[Signature]

Father Alfredo I. Hernández

Introduction

The mission of St. Juliana Parish is to grow spiritually, evangelize and serve, united as one family of faith, welcoming and including each person with love. Ten years ago, our parish first proclaimed this mission for itself. In the past year, as the Parish Pastoral Council has reviewed the results of the parish survey and the work of the Parish Convocation, held on January 29, 2011, we have tried to see how we can best make this mission reality, in the concrete situation in which we live. This Pastoral Plan for St. Juliana Parish is our effort to enflesh our commitment to live out this mission over the next five years.

As we have developed this Pastoral Plan, we have taken into account the work of previous Parish Convocations, the Parish survey taken in the fall of 2010, the Diocese of Palm Beach’s Hispanic Pastoral Plan as it pertains to our community, the St. Juliana Catholic School Strategic Plan, and most of all, the results of our most recent Parish Convocation and the post-convocation suggestions and recommendations. This is OUR Parish Pastoral Plan, and it will take the effort of all us, priests, deacon, religious, staff, and parishioners and school community to make it come alive and be fruitful in the next five years. In order for us to be successful, we need to have in mind the spirit of the early Church, as described in the Acts of the Apostles: “The community of believers was of one heart and mind” (Acts 4:32).

In reading this Pastoral Plan, it will become clear that it calls for all of us, whether the parish clergy and staff, apostolic groups and parish ministries, parishioners and volunteers, young and old and in between, are being asked to commit ourselves to the future of St. Juliana Parish. The Pastoral Plan is not a list of promises that the Pastor is making to the parishioners; it describes commitments, or rather, one multi-faceted commitment, that we are all making to each other and to God, to live more fully as the Body of Christ.
In his Farewell Discourse in John’s Gospel, Jesus prayed for His disciples and for us: “I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one. I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world” (John 17:19-24). In these words we see many of the key elements of our Parish Mission, expressed in Jesus’ will for us.

As this document was coming close to its final form, Pope Benedict issued his Apostolic Letter, Porta Fidei (Door of Faith), announcing his decision to celebrate a Year of Faith, from October 11, 2012 (the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II), to November 24, 2013 (the Feast of Christ the King). It seems appropriate to illustrate each area of our Mission Statement and of the relevant commitments with a citation from the Holy Father, as he reminds us: “To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime” (Porta Fidei, #1).

**Spiritual growth**

Jesus says that he wants His followers to be with Him: “I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see the glory that you gave me.” The purpose of our efforts to grow spiritually and help our brothers and sisters in their own spiritual growth is to come to be with Jesus, more perfectly each day. We seek to promote spiritual growth in the following ways:

1. **Improve the liturgical and sacramental life of St. Juliana Parish:**
   a. We will seek to expand the opportunities for community prayer and improve on our efforts to encourage parishioners to commit to sharing in these devotional and liturgical activities. These may include: increasing attendance at Sunday and daily Mass, expanding participation in the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, promoting the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, praying the Liturgy of the Hours in common and promoting the Rosary and other Marian devotions. Parishioners are asked to commit to taking part in at least one spiritual activity per week, in addition to Sunday Mass.

   b. We will continue to work on improving the musical program in our Parish, increasing the participation in our choirs and music ministry, and continually evaluating the quality of the music selected and used, to ensure that the music is helping us to give glory to God in the liturgy and taste that glory ourselves. Talented parishioners of all ages are asked to volunteer to join the music ministry and related support ministries.

   c. The priests and deacons of the parish will accept the challenge to strengthen the ministry of the Word at our liturgies, using the methods at our disposal to improve their homilies, and assessing their effectiveness.
2. **Improve the Parish’s Retreat Ministry:**
   
   a. Parish staff and volunteers will organize, publicize and run retreats and days of reflections, responding to the needs of our community, of youth and adults. All parishioners are asked to commit themselves to learn about the activities promoted by the Parish and to take part in at least one significant activity to promote their spiritual life each year.

   b. We will promote retreat and spiritual growth opportunities presented around the Diocese to make people aware and encourage them to take part in the many means available to help them in spiritual growth.

3. **Support marriages and vocational discernment:**
   
   a. We will improve our programs for pre-marital preparation and to support married couples, to help all of the families in our Parish and School communities to live out their vocation to be the image of Christ’s love for the Church. Our families are encouraged to accept the challenge to promote married life, participating in these efforts and inviting others to do so. To quote from the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry, our purpose is to support married couples, “so that as they live their faith more deeply, the sacramental unity of their married lives becomes stronger.”

   b. We will fully implement the Parish’s Vocations Committee, encouraging our young people to be open to vocations to religious life, the diaconate and the priesthood, and providing means to help them in that discernment.

---

*Ever since the start of my ministry as Successor of Peter, I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ. During the homily at the Mass marking the inauguration of my pontificate I said: “The Church as a whole and all her Pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life, towards friendship with the Son of God, towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance.”¹ It often happens that Christians are more concerned for the social, cultural and political consequences of their commitment, continuing to think of the faith as a self-evident presupposition for life in society. In reality, not only can this presupposition no longer be taken for granted, but it is often openly denied.² Whereas in the past it was possible to recognize a unitary cultural matrix, broadly accepted in its appeal to the content of the faith and the values inspired by it, today this no longer seems to be the case in large swathes of society, because of a profound crisis of faith that has affected many people. We cannot accept that salt should become tasteless or the light be kept hidden (cf. Mt 5:13-16). The people of today can still experience the need to go to the well, like the Samaritan woman, in order to hear Jesus, who invites us to believe in him and to draw upon the source of living water welling up within him (cf. Jn 4:14). We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the word of God, faithfully handed down by the Church, and on the bread of life, offered as sustenance for his disciples (cf. Jn 6:51).*  

**Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Letter Porta Fidei, #3**
Evangelization

Jesus says: “I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word.” There is a truth we believe in, the truth revealed in and by Jesus, and we are called to share that truth with others. St. Juliana Parish’s efforts at evangelization have as their purpose to help all of us to be “consecrated in the truth” and to draw others to “believe in (Jesus) through (our) word.” In these ways we will commit ourselves to increase our efforts at evangelization:

1. **Strengthen our efforts to teach the faith to our children, youth and adults:**

   a. As St. Juliana Catholic School begins its seventh decade of educating the children of our community with a renewed commitment for the future, we will commit ourselves as a parish to make the Catholic education provided at our parish school truly excellent and accessible to as many Catholic families as possible. We will work together with our partners from Holy Name of Jesus Parish, to ensure the solid Catholic identity of our School, and its academic excellence, at the same time as we are strengthening its long-term financial health. We can challenge Parish families to sacrifice in order to provide their children with a Catholic education, as long as we are willing to support them in that sacrifice.

   b. We will continue to make every effort to make the Parish’s religious education program respond to the needs of all of our children and families. Parents in the Parish will commit to the Parish’s vision, that, in order to be “consecrated in the truth,” children, youth and adults need to continue to learn about the faith throughout their lives, not just in preparation for the sacraments.

   c. St. Juliana will recommit itself to the RCIA program, adult Bible study, diocesan and other programs of adult formation, all with the intention of deepening the knowledge of the faith and commitment to it by the adult members of our Parish. Parishioners will be challenged to let staff know where their deepest longings are, and then to respond to the programs that are developed to respond to these needs.

   d. St. Juliana will explore ways to strengthen and renew our ministry to youth and young adults, so that it will more effectively connect with the young people, and help them to recognize and respond to God’s call to live as His sons and daughters. In accord with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry, we will have a particular focus on the family dimension of youth and young adult ministry, to strengthen the bond of young people with their parents and families.

2. **Increase our outreach beyond the Parish:**

   a. We will use all methods of communication useful in today’s world, continuing to support the radio ministry of *El Mensaje*, expanding our presence on the Web, and dedicating resources to communicate the Gospel in the most effective way possible, using modern technology as needed.

   b. Parishioners, youth and adults, will be challenged to invite friends, Catholic and non-Catholic, to Mass or to other Parish events, at least once a month.
Evidently, knowledge of the content of faith is essential for giving one’s own assent, that is to say for adhering fully with intellect and will to what the Church proposes. Knowledge of faith opens a door into the fullness of the saving mystery revealed by God. The giving of assent implies that, when we believe, we freely accept the whole mystery of faith, because the guarantor of its truth is God who reveals himself and allows us to know his mystery of love. 

Pope Benedict XVI, Porta Fidei, #10.

Caritas Christi urget nos” (2 Cor 5:14): it is the love of Christ that fills our hearts and impels us to evangelize. Today as in the past, he sends us through the highways of the world to proclaim his Gospel to all the peoples of the earth (cf. Mt 28:19). Through his love, Jesus Christ attracts to himself the people of every generation: in every age he convokes the Church, entrusting her with the proclamation of the Gospel by a mandate that is ever new. Today too, there is a need for stronger ecclesial commitment to new evangelization in order to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith. Porta Fidei, #7.

Service

We cannot be brought to perfection in Christ, if we do not listen to the command that He makes in so many places, including in the final discourse of John’s Gospel, to love one another. The call to service is a response to this command: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you” (John 15:12-14). The institutional efforts of the Parish and of individual members of St. Juliana will aim to serve one another, as concrete ways of demonstrating the love of Christ:

1. **Parish outreach to those in need of a ministry of love:**
   a. The Parish’s social ministries office will continue to seek the most effective way to serve the needy in our area, being responsible in the use of resources and treating each person who comes to us with respect and kindness.
   b. We will continue to work to better organize and implement our ministry to the sick and homebound members of our Parish, that Jesus will say of us, “I was sick and you cared for me” (Matthew 25:36). Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be asked to commit to taking Holy Communion to the sick and the homebound members of the Parish.

2. **The challenge to parishioners to give of themselves in service:**
   a. There will be a structured effort to let parishioners know, each month, what opportunities there are to serve the Parish and to serve those in need.
   b. Parishioners will be asked to give one hour per week in service to the needs of the Parish, showing their commitment to the mission of St. Juliana, by their actions.
   c. Parishioners will also be challenged to give one hour per week to someone in need, as their way of living out the command to love as Jesus loved.
The Year of Faith will also be a good opportunity to intensify the witness of charity. As Saint Paul reminds us: “So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor 13:13). With even stronger words – which have always placed Christians under obligation – Saint James said: “What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled’, without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith” (Jas 2:14-18). Pope Benedict XVI, Porta Fidei, #14.

Unity

Jesus saw the unity of His followers as key to the success of their future efforts of evangelization: “And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me” (John 17:22-23). This unity is made possible by our sharing in the sacraments of the Church, by our common profession of the one faith, by our working together in service to the Parish and to each other, and at the same time makes our evangelization credible. Our specific efforts to build the unity of our community will include the following:

1. With concrete measures, St. Juliana Parish will promote the vision of the Bishops of the United States, that we are constantly called to live in unity, regardless of our country of origin, the language in which we worship God, our age, ethnic or racial background: “Communion does not abolish differences but brings together one family, diverse and united in the one Lord.” (Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity, A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops):

   a. We will continue to offer services in the language needed by the people who come to us, while seeking to make all our parishioners feel part of one family.

   b. In a particular way, the youth ministry of St. Juliana Parish will seek to bring together all of our youth, so that in their unity (as they grow spiritually, evangelize and serve), they will be a sign to our whole community.

   c. Our Parish will continue to seek ways to help all parishioners feel at home in celebrations designed to be for the whole parish, recognizing that bilingual or multicultural celebrations may be challenging for some, but are necessary to build and express the unity of the Body of Christ.

   d. St. Juliana will also seek ways to help parishioners gather together for social events and activities that bring them together for fun, fellowship, fundraising and service.

2. Unity as a mission to draw all Christians together and to show openness to non-Christians:

   a. St. Juliana will commit itself to take part in ecumenical activities that will promote the unity of all Christians, including the annual celebration of the Week of Christian Unity.
b. Our efforts to study and celebrate our faith will be designed to teach clearly what the Church expresses about openness to other Christians and to dialogue with other religions.

**By faith, the disciples formed the first community, gathered around the teaching of the Apostles, in prayer, in celebration of the Eucharist, holding their possessions in common so as to meet the needs of the brethren (cf. Acts 2:42-47). Pope Benedict XVI, *Porta Fidei*, #14.**

**Welcome**

In the Prologue to the Gospel of St. John, we read: “The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man’s decision but of God” (John 1:9-13). In our welcome to each other in our Parish community, we express that welcome to the Light of the World that those who first saw Jesus were unable to give. In our welcoming and inclusive attitudes and actions, we are indeed welcoming Christ, and so we commit ourselves to show this welcome in the following ways:

1. **Welcome to new arrivals to the Parish and maintaining a spirit of welcome:**
   
   a. In support of the current work of the Parish ushers, an effective ministry of welcome will be established, to welcome visitors at the church doors, offering them the opportunity to know more about St. Juliana, register in the Parish, and make a human connection to the Parish on their first visit.

   b. All Parish ministries and groups will be encouraged and challenged to be open and welcoming to new members.

   c. Parish and School facilities will be improved to be more welcoming to those coming to visit, and all Parish and School staff will seek to make all parishioners and visitors experience the welcome that we would hope Jesus would find in our homes. The determination of the permanent use of the former Convent (St. Joseph House) will be made with this intention in mind.

   d. In keeping with a specific request of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and of many parishioners, the Parish will look for a way to provide weekend office hours for those who cannot come to the office during regular business hours. This will require volunteers to commit to staffing the office during these times.

2. **Welcome to those society may not welcome:**

   a. In all of our Parish educational and service activities, we will seek to promote the Church’s vision of social justice and help all of our parishioners recognize the dignity of all.
b. St. Juliana will keep as a particular focus the need to recognize Jesus in and promote the
dignity of the poor, the sick, the elderly, the immigrant and the unborn.

Intent on gathering the signs of the times in the present of history, faith commits every one of us to
become a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world. What the world is in particular
need of today is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the word of the Lord,
and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life, life
without end. Pope Benedict XVI, Porta Fidei, #15.

Stewardship

At St. Juliana Parish, we recognize that since we are “in the world,” if not “of the world,” it is
essential to have the financial support of all parishioners and to use our resources prudently and wisely, if
we are to fulfill our mission of spiritual growth, evangelization, service, unity and welcome. In this spirit,
we make the following commitments:

1. Commitment to stewardship:

   a. All parishioners will be asked to register with the Parish and use the envelope system, if
      they currently do not, or to commit to donate regularly, using electronic means.

   b. All members of St. Juliana Parish will be challenged to examine carefully their
      commitment to support the Parish, and if they do not do so currently, give at least one hour
      of each week’s wages to the Parish.

   c. When there is a special drive for construction or other major needs, all parishioners will
      commit to take part, to the best of their ability.

2. Transparency and communication to parishioners of the financial situation and needs of the
   Parish and School:

   a. On at least an annual basis, members of the Parish Finance Council will help the Pastor
      communicate to the Parish about the current situation of the Parish, and in what ways we
      need particular help to accomplish the Parish’s mission.

   b. The Reviews of Parish and School financial procedures conducted by an outside
      accounting firm will always be available for review by parishioners.

Faith without charity bears no fruit, while charity without faith would be a sentiment constantly at the
mercy of doubt. Faith and charity each require the other, in such a way that each allows the other to
set out along its respective path. Indeed, many Christians dedicate their lives with love to those who
are lonely, marginalized or excluded, as to those who are the first with a claim on our attention and
the most important for us to support, because it is in them that the reflection of Christ’s own face is
seen. Through faith, we can recognize the face of the risen Lord in those who ask for our love. "As you
did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). These words are a warning
that must not be forgotten and a perennial invitation to return the love by which he takes care of us. It is faith that enables us to recognize Christ and it is his love that impels us to assist him whenever he becomes our neighbor along the journey of life. Supported by faith, let us look with hope at our commitment in the world, as we await "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Pet 3:13; cf. Rev 21:1). Pope Benedict XVI, Porta Fidei, #14.

Conclusion

In the passage from St. John’s Gospel that has helped us through this Pastoral Plan, Jesus said, “I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me” (17:22-23). We have received so much from God, in His Son Jesus Christ. As we rejoice in “the glory” that we have received, we hear the call to live out our common Christian mission, here at St. Juliana Parish, in the unity of the Body of Christ.

There are many words on these pages. If they are going to come to life, and not just remain dead letters, they need to take root in the hearts and the lives of all of members of our Parish community. We each need to commit to making them reality, and at the same time, we need to commend these words and our commitments to God, so that He will make them bear fruit. In that spirit, we finish with a form of the prayer the Parish prayed in preparation for the Parish Convocation, a prayer which is most relevant as we ask God to allow us to let His glory shine through us:

God of love, look upon the gifts of your servants, the members of Saint Juliana Parish, and give us light to know your way, to understand it clearly, and to follow it in confidence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We believe with firm certitude that the Lord Jesus has conquered evil and death. With this sure confidence we entrust ourselves to him: he, present in our midst, overcomes the power of the evil one (cf. Lk 11:20); and the Church, the visible community of his mercy, abides in him as a sign of definitive reconciliation with the Father. Pope Benedict XVI, Porta Fidei, #15.
Here are some areas in which you can help to make the Plan a reality. Please, check the parish bulletin for contact numbers.

1. Administration
   a. Help in Parish Office

2. Liturgy (Includes Music Ministry and Welcome, Art and Environment)
   a. Lectors and Ministers of Communion
   b. Altar Servers
   c. Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
   d. Ushers
   e. Music and Choir
   f. Projection Team
   g. Arts and Environment Committee (for decoration of church)

3. Faith Formation
   a. RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
   b. Catechesis
   c. Bible groups
   d. Baptismal Program
   e. Post Baptismal Program
   f. Quinceañera Formation
   g. Retreats
   h. Program for Parent Formation
   i. Mommy and Me Group
   j. Home School Group

4. Family and Couples Ministry
   a. Couples Nights
   b. Theology of the Body Formation
   d. Natural Family Planning

5. Youth Ministry
   a. Middle School Group (6th – 8th grades)
   b. High School Group (9th – 12th grades)
   c. Young Adults (Epifanía in Spanish)

6. Social Ministry
   a. Help with food and clothes
   b. English Classes
   c. Services of social aid
   d. Respect Life
   e. Religious items store

7. Parish Groups
   a. Cofradía de la Caridad del Cobre
   b. Cursillos de Cristiandad
   c. DCA (Damas Catolicas en Accion)
   d. CCW (Council of Catholic Women)
   e. Men’s Group
   f. Prayer Group Alabaré
   g. Misión de la Paz (Store and Radio program)
   h. Hermandad del Señor de los Milagros
   i. Legion of Mary
Index

I. Introduction .............................................................................................................................................1
II. Spiritual Growth .......................................................................................................................................2
III. Evangelization .........................................................................................................................................4
IV. Service ....................................................................................................................................................5
V. Unity ........................................................................................................................................................6
VI. Welcome ................................................................................................................................................7
VII. Stewardship ..........................................................................................................................................8
VIII. Conclusion ............................................................................................................................................9
IX. Appendix ...............................................................................................................................................11

Saint Juliana, pray for us!

The photographs used in the Pastoral Plan, the front of the parish and the image of St. Juliana are courtesy of Teresa Gonzalez of Wings of Time Photography.

We thank all the parishioners who have helped to bring this Pastoral Plan to this point, specially the members of the Parish Council: Guy Icangelo (Chairman), Rosendo Acosta, Jeri Brown, Tom Harper, Jean Moore, Millie Rivera, Margarita Rendón, Andrew Van Otteren and Lidia Vargas – as well as Sister Vivian González, rmi.