

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

CALLED TO HOLINESS AND MISSION: PASTORAL PLANNING IN THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Preliminary Recommendations of the Planning Commission

COUNTY: Lackawanna

REGION: North

CLUSTER # 1

PARISHES: St. Ann, Scranton; SS. Peter & Paul, Scranton; St. Lucy, Scranton; St. Patrick, Scranton; St. Michael, Scranton

Appreciation

We wish to thank you for the prayer, reflection and work which you have put into *Called to Holiness and Mission* to date. We appreciate the time and effort you have given to evaluating your parishes based on the Criteria established by the Planning Commission and making a Suggestion for your future.

Commendations

We commend you for:

- Recognizing the growing Hispanic population in the area and your willingness to respond to their needs.
- Your sensitivity to the many changes that have already happened in your cluster.
- A willingness to work together in the future.

Recommendations

We have taken seriously your desire to be in partnership and understand that your rationale is based on the following factors:

- You have experienced a significant amount of change, and you would like to limit further structural changes at this time.
- You want your parishes to maintain their vibrancy and celebrate their unique identities and rich heritage.
- You want to build on your success with supporting a common Catholic School, believing you can be successful with plans for regional efforts towards CCD, RCIA, Religious Education and Formation, and a regional youth ministry.

However, based on our study of your cluster reports, the challenges you identified on your Parish Summary Report Form, the goals of *Called to Holiness and Mission* as stated by Bishop Martino, our listening to you and our best thinking, we respectfully disagree with your suggestion.

Therefore, we recommend that as a cluster you enter into:

- Model One: Consolidated Parish between SS. Peter and Paul, Scranton, and St. Lucy, Scranton. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Lucy, pending the facility assessment results. There will be a second worship site at SS. Peter and Paul that will be reviewed after two years.
- Model One: Consolidated Parish between St. Michael, Scranton, and St. Patrick, Scranton. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Patrick pending the facility assessment results and in the event that the Fraternity of St. Peter could no longer staff St. Michael.
- Model Three: Partnership between St. Ann, Scranton, St. Patrick, Scranton, and the community resulting from the consolidation of St. Lucy and SS. Peter and Paul.

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We further recommend that:

1. The worship site at Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel of St. Patrick Parish be reviewed after two years.
2. The rich ethnic heritage of the people in your area be honored and celebrated whenever appropriate.
3. A new Mass schedule be developed that reflects good stewardship of priestly resources and maximizes opportunities for larger assemblies to provide a more robust celebration of the liturgy.
4. You share our Preliminary Recommendations and rationale with each of your parish communities, and invite their questions and feedback on an ongoing basis now through September.
5. Upon reception of the Bishop's directives for your cluster, please establish a Cluster Implementation Team to design ways to fulfill the directives.

Rationale

We make these recommendations based on your own parish study and concepts found in the materials you provided. Our thinking is also based on your desire and ours to have a strong Catholic Presence in your area. In addition, we considered:

1. The dense population in your area, in particular the elderly population.
2. The growing Hispanic population in the West Side.