

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 # 10

PARISHES: St. Michael, Olyphant; St. Patrick, Olyphant; Holy Ghost, Olyphant; Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary, Dickson City; St. John the Baptist, Throop; St. Anthony, Throop; St. Bridget, Throop

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:

- Your history of a strong commitment to working together as individual parish communities, and now as a cluster.
- “Leaving one church open in each town which will not only continue to provide a center for worship - but also a prominent symbol of our faith.”
- Moving beyond buildings to shared ministries.
- Seeking to “build toward a stronger Catholic identity in the Mid-Valley.”

Recommendations

After reflecting on Bishop Martino’s Goals for **Called to Holiness and Mission**, your work evaluating the Criteria established by the Planning Commission, your Data Verification Forms and Parish Summary Form, we make the following recommendations:

We affirm your suggestions and recommend that as a cluster you enter into:

- Model One: Consolidated Parish among St. Michael, Olyphant; St. Patrick, Olyphant; and Holy Ghost, Olyphant. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Patrick, pending the facility assessment review.
- Model One: Consolidated Parishes among St. John the Baptist, Throop; St. Anthony, Throop; and St. Bridget, Throop. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Anthony, pending the facility assessment review
- Model Two: Linked Parishes between the new consolidated parishes at St. Patrick, Olyphant and St. Anthony, Throop
- Model Three: Partnership between the two new consolidated Parishes and Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary, Dickson City

We further recommend that:

1. You build on already present strengths and experiences of parish life and ministry, particularly in the areas of social justice
2. You partner for common catechetical programs, shared youth ministry programs, joint RCIA programs, shared parish outreach programs, and shared bereavement programs

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3. The rich ethnic heritage of the people in your area be honored and celebrated whenever appropriate.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 desire and ours to have a strong Catholic presence in your area now and in the future. 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 stewardship of resources, particularly in regard to priestly resources
2. Your own reflection that "the consolidated new parish communities in Olyphant and Throop in the future."