

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 # 11

PARISHES: Sacred Heart, Peckville; St. James, Jessup; St. Michael, Jessup; St. Mary's Assumption, Jessup

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:

- The working relationship that has existed for so long in Jessup.
- The founding and sustaining of LaSalle Academy through the cooperative spirit of the entire Mid-Valley.
- Your willingness to look toward new structures in the future.
- Your recognition that the new model will provide “a more effective and efficient use of resources, a savings in overhead, ease the burden of our priests, and allow for an expansion of programs.”

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. James, Jessup; St. Michael, Jessup and St. Mary's Assumption, Jessup. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. James, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model Three: Partnership between the new consolidated parish at St. James, Jessup and Sacred Heart, Peckville

We further recommend

1. The partnership focus on establishing joint programs, especially youth and young adult ministries, RCIA, outreach programs, vocation expansion, and joint Liturgical celebrations
2. Consideration for sharing a business manager, maintenance staff and centralized purchasing.
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. That 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.

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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.