

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 # 14

PARISHES: Holy Rosary, Scranton; St. Joseph, Scranton; St. Anthony, 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:

- Your sincere desire to consolidate the three parishes in a short amount of time.
- Your many past experiences with consolidations.
- Your willingness to address the changing demographics and the diverse needs of a vibrant parish in a changing community.
- The large number of people involved in the life of your community.

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 Two: Linked Parishes of Holy Rosary, Scranton, St. Joseph, Scranton and St. Anthony of Padua, Scranton. This linkage will lead to a consolidation of the three parishes. We also recommend that the consolidated parish site be at Holy Rosary, pending the facility assessment results, within two years.

We further recommend that:

1. You continue helping the three communities work closely together in their relationships and in their programs.
2. The relationship between St. Anthony of Padua and the St. Thomas More Society continue at least until the consolidation occurs.
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.

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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 changes that have already occurred in the parishes in this cluster.
2. Your stated desire to consolidate.
3. Your existing relationship with the St. Thomas More Society.