

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 # 2

PARISHES: St. John the Baptist, Taylor; Immaculate Conception, Taylor; St. Joseph, Minooka (Scranton); St. Mary of Czestochowa, Greenwood

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 incredible commitment to the process and your consensus suggestion in the process.
- Your application of the criteria to the model you suggest.
- The bold suggestion you have made.
- Your openness to see the bigger picture.

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 suggestion and recommend that as a cluster you enter into

- Model One: Consolidated Parish of St. John the Baptist, Taylor; Immaculate Conception, Taylor; St. Joseph, Minooka, Scranton; and St. Mary of Czestochowa, Greenwood. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Joseph, pending the facility assessment results, and focus on the following areas which you noted on your Suggestion Form:
 - Word, Worship, Community and Service
 - Proactive transition plan
 - Creating vibrant liturgy
 - Outreach and social justice
 - Ongoing adult education and faith formation
 - Youth Ministry

We further recommend that:

1. You carefully research the potential for growth in your area to ensure that one worship site is adequate.
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.

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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 realistic use of the available resources from combining efforts..
2. "The combined strengths and increased numbers of active parishioners with the consolidation, which would create innumerable opportunities to strengthen and expand all ministries, create more vibrant liturgies, and build a new welcoming faith community."