

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 # 4

PARISHES: Our Lady of the Abingtons, Dalton; Our Lady of the Snows, Clarks Summit; St. Gregory, Clarks Green

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 vitality evident in the three existing parish communities.
- The number of active parishioners involved in living out the mission of your parishes.
- Your willingness to creatively identify elements of your preferred future where you are working more effectively together.

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 Three: Partnership Parishes and focus on the following areas which you noted on your Cluster Evaluation of Criteria Form and on your Suggestion Form:
 1. Sharing retreats for liturgical ministers and parish leaders
 2. Sharing of RCIA and marriage preparation
 3. A joint environmental awareness program
 4. Common days of recollection and retreats for staff
- Model Two: Linked Parishes between St. Patrick, Nicholson and Our Lady of the Abingtons, Dalton which will be reviewed after three years with a focus on:
 1. Finances and stewardship.
 2. Outreach to youth and young adults.

We further recommend that:

1. You explore the possibilities for regional youth ministry.
2. You explore the possibilities for future partnerships in terms of human and financial resources.
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.

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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 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 your statement, "We would function far more efficiently in the present and have a foundation in place for linkage or consolidation if either becomes an eventual necessity."