

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 # **5**

PARISHES: **St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton; Immaculate Conception, Scranton; Holy Family, Scranton; St. Paul, Scranton; St. Clare, Scranton; Christ the King, Dunmore; St. Thomas More Society, 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:

- The well thought-out process that provided us with significant detail on your best thinking.
- Your willingness to consider consolidations in your immediate future.
- Sharing with us the varying perspectives concerning Christ the King Parish.
- Your suggestion regarding revision of the Mass schedules.

Recommendations

We have taken seriously your desire to be Model One: Consolidated Parish, Model Two: Linked Parishes, and Model Three: Partnership Parishes, and understand that your rationale is based on the following factors:

- The proximity of the various parish communities.
- The fact that the St. Thomas More Society is seeking a more traditional worship space.
- Your desire to keep as many churches open as possible.

However, based on our study of your cluster reports, the challenges you identified on your Parish Summary Report Form and the goals of *Called to Holiness and Mission* as stated by Bishop Martino, our listening to you and our best thinking, we respectfully disagree with your suggestion.

Therefore, we recommend that as a cluster you enter into:

- Model One: Consolidated Parish between Holy Family, Scranton and St. Peter Cathedral, Scranton. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Peter, pending the facility assessment results
- Model One: Consolidated Parish between Immaculate Conception, Scranton and Christ the King, Dunmore. We also recommend that the parish site be at Immaculate Conception, pending the facility assessment results
- Model One: Consolidated Parish between St. Paul, Scranton and St. Clare, Scranton. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Paul, pending the facility assessment results
- Model Three: Partnership between the three new parish communities.

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We further recommend that

1. The St. Thomas More Society maintain its current relationship with St. Anthony of Padua, Scranton
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.
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 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 number of families in each parish community.
2. The number attending Mass in the area.
3. That the St. Thomas More Society seems to be functioning well at its present site, without the need for any transition at this time.