

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 # **7**

PARISHES: **St. Mary of Mt. Carmel, Dunmore; St. Casimir, Dunmore; All Saints, Dunmore; St. Anthony, Dunmore; St. Rocco, Dunmore**

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 experience of creating “stronger and more effective communities” by working together.
- The serious study you have undertaken and the detailed response you shared with the Planning Commission, especially in your addendum to the Cluster Suggestion.

Recommendations

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

- The three parishes have been linked for many years already.
- St. Rocco’s and St. Anthony have been linked for a short time.

However, based on our study of your cluster reports, the challenges you identified on your Parish Summary Report Form, 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 Parishes among St. Mary of Mt. Carmel, Dunmore; St. Casimir, Dunmore, and All Saints, Dunmore. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model One: Consolidated Parishes between St. Anthony, Dunmore and St. Rocco, Dunmore. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Anthony, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model Three: Partnership between the consolidated parishes of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel, Dunmore and St. Anthony of Padua, Dunmore in areas including RCIA, youth ministry, bereavement services, social concerns, faith formation, etc.

We further recommend that:

1. You explore different ways of enhancing your religious education efforts in Dunmore.
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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1 of 2

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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 size of the Catholic population in Dunmore and the need for two independent parishes..
2. The common Italian heritage at St. Rocco and St. Anthony.
3. The proven ability to collaborate based on your positive history of sharing programs and resources over the past many years.