

**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 # **8**

PARISHES: **St. Catherine of Siena, Moscow; St. Eulalia, Elmhurst**

**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 history of partnership that exists between your two parishes.
- Recognizing the limitations of your current approach to youth ministry and the advantages of partnering to enhance youth ministry.
- Your awareness of the potential growth of the population in your area in the next few years.

**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 Three: Partnership between. St. Catherine of Siena, Moscow and St. Eulalia, Elmhurst

We further recommend that:

1. You develop stronger joint programs, including liturgical programs, Penance and Anointing services, community services, youth group, food pantry, catechetical training, RCIA training, outreach, youth ministry, retreats, and advocacy
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 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 your two parish communities
2. The geography and potential for growth in your area

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3. The positive opportunities for partnership between your two parish communities
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