

## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

*CALLED TO HOLINESS AND MISSION: PASTORAL PLANNING IN THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON*

### Preliminary Recommendations of the Planning Commission

COUNTY: Luzerne

REGION: South

CLUSTER # 1

PARISHES: Gate of Heaven, Dallas; Our Lady of Victory, Harvey's Lake; St. Therese, Shavertown; St. Frances X. Cabrini, Carverton; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lake Silkworth

#### **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:

- Working together for high school religious education.
- Your willingness to provide joint programs.
- Sponsoring adult education programs.
- Establishing stronger stewardship and justice ministry through collaboration.

#### **Recommendations**

We have taken seriously your desire to be in partnership and understand that your rationale is based on the following factors:

- Parishes are viable.
- There are large geographic areas.
- Your willingness to share time, talents and treasure.

However, based on our study of your Cluster Reports, the challenges you identified on your Parish Summary, 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 Two: Linked Parishes between Saint Francis Cabrini, Carverton and Saint Therese, Shavertown leading to consolidation within three years at the St Therese site, pending the facility assessment results. A possible worship site at Centremoreland needs to be further considered.
- Model One: Consolidated Parishes or Model Four: In Solidum (Team), within three years among Gate of Heaven, Dallas, Our Lady of Victory, Harvey's Lake and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lake Silkworth. If there is a consolidation, we recommend that Gate of Heaven, Dallas be the parish site, with additional worship sites at Our Lady of Victory, Harvey's Lake and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lake Silkworth, which will be reviewed after two years.
- Model Three: Partnership Parishes among all the parishes in the cluster.

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1 of 2

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We further recommend that:

1. You consider cooperative efforts including areas of collaboration found on your Suggestion Form.
2. Serious consideration be given to studying current staffing patterns to eliminate duplication and enhance ministries.
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.
5. You share our Preliminary Recommendations and rationale with each of your parish communities, and invite their questions and feedback on an ongoing basis 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 now and in the future. In addition we considered:

1. Good stewardship of human and financial resources, including the projected number of priests available in the future.
2. Our desire to affirm what you have already accomplished with lay leadership and to challenge you to continue to develop the "Catholic faithful who are called through baptism to share in the mission of Jesus Christ."