

## 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 # 10

PARISHES: Blessed Sacrament, Hughestown; St. Mary Help Christians, Pittston; St. Mary Assumption, Pittston; Our Lady Mt. Carmel, Pittston; St. Rocco, Pittston; St. John Evangelist, Pittston

#### **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 courageous and forward thinking.
- Engaging in stewardship of human and financial resources.
- Embracing the need to develop a culture of vocation.
- Planning for more vibrant participation in liturgical celebrations.

#### **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 One: Consolidated Parish within three years among Blessed Sacrament, Hughestown, St. Mary's Assumption, Pittston and St. Mary Help of Christians, Pittston. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Mary Help of Christians, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model One: Consolidated Parish within three years between Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Pittston and St. Rocco's, Pittston. We also recommend that the parish site be at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model Three: Partnership Parishes among St. John the Evangelist, Pittston and the two newly consolidated parishes listed above.

We further recommend that:

1. The rich ethnic heritage of the people in your area be honored and celebrated whenever appropriate.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Upon reception of the Bishop's directives for your cluster, please establish a Cluster Implementation Team to design ways to fulfill the directives.

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#### **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 rationale:

1. That the People of God will have greater opportunities to express, witness, give service to, and bring about the Kingdom of God
2. That there will be greater attendance and more vibrant participation in all liturgical celebrations and faith formation programs.
3. That a strong faith community will be realized, leading to greater participation in all aspects of parish life.
4. That there will be a greater understanding of the need to develop a culture of vocation and vocation awareness in parish communities.
5. That there will be adequate staff for a full range of Evangelization programs for all age levels in the cluster.
6. That the financial resources, personnel and facilities of the cluster will be better utilized for the furthering of the mission of the Church.
7. That this configuration of the remaining parishes in the Greater Pittston Area will lead to more vibrant liturgical, faith formation, stewardship and social justice programs.