

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 # 13

PARISHES: Holy Rosary, Duryea; Sacred Heart, Duryea; St. Joseph, Duryea; St. Mary, Avoca; SS. Peter & Paul, Avoca; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dupont

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 facility planning.
- Having joint parish council meetings.
- Praying for additional vocations and lay ministries.
- Your desire to seriously consider transformation in your parishes.

Recommendations

We have taken seriously your desire to be in partnership and linkage relationships based on your rationale to enhance ministries, work on positive structural transformation, have joint meetings and many other collaborative efforts.

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 One: Consolidated Parish within three years among Holy Rosary, Duryea; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Duryea and St. Joseph, Duryea at the Holy Rosary site, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model One: Consolidated Parish within three years between SS. Peter and Paul, Avoca and St. Mary, Avoca at the St. Mary site, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model Three: Partnership Parishes with Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dupont, partnering with the newly consolidated parishes named above

We further recommend that:

1. You consider cooperative efforts including all the ways you have planned to work together as stated on your Suggestion Form.
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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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 long tradition of linkage between some of the parishes.
2. The fact that the parishes have been working well together over the years.
3. Stewardship of resources and the diminishing number of priests.