

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 # 14

PARISHES: St. Maria Goretti, Laflin; St. Mark, Inkerman; SS. Peter & Paul, Plains; Sacred Heart, Plains; St. Joseph, Hudson

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 realistic and well-studied suggestions.
- Your creative approach.
- Your enthusiastic support for parish transformation.

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 among Saints Peter & Paul, Plains; Sacred Heart, Plains and St. Joseph, Hudson. We also recommend that the parish site be at Saints Peter & Paul, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model One: Consolidated Parish between St. Maria Goretti, Laflin and St. Mark, Inkerman. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Maria Goretti, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model Three: Partnership Parishes between the newly consolidated parishes named 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 own rationale as seen on your Suggestion Form:

1. During the process of discussing, completing and reviewing the Cluster Evaluation form, the models described above clearly emerged even before they were matched to the definitions set forth by the Diocesan Planning materials.
2. In the case of the parishes in the first suggested consolidation, efforts are well underway.
3. These models consider and reflect the available resources, trending data and financially solvent course of action.
4. The proposed models also match the geographical situation and the transportation situation of many of the current parishioners and would sustain a presence in potential growth areas.
5. The existing parishes, although strong in many ways, are eager to become stronger and expand liturgies and programs, particularly for youth, young adults and the elderly. There is recognition that these enhancements require cooperation and collaboration.