

## 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 # 15

PARISHES: All Saints, Plymouth; St. John Baptist, Larksville

#### **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 efforts at your recent consolidations.
- Your plan for partnership.
- Your willingness to adjust Mass schedule and share resources.
- Your desire to have cooperative pastoral leadership.

#### **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 Parishes between All Saints, Plymouth which has recently consolidated and St. John the Baptist, Larksville.

We further recommend that:

1. After three years, All Saints, Plymouth and St. John the Baptist, Larksville, study the demographics and financial statistics for viability and consider whether linkage or consolidation might be an option.
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 your rationale for partnership:

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- Each parish has its individual identity.
- Each parish has recently been consolidated and another move to consolidate these two parishes was deemed emotionally difficult for each congregation.
- Each parish has strengths and weaknesses that could actually complement and strengthen each other, as noted in the Planning Form.
- The parishes share a contiguous geography that allows the cooperation between each to be a viable possibility. Potential examples of cooperation are listed in the Planning Form.
- The pastoral leadership of each parish expresses a strong support for each other and a developing sense of active cooperation.