

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 # 2

PARISHES: Holy Family, Luzerne; St. Ignatius, Kingston; Holy Name/St. Mary, Swoyersville; Holy Trinity, Swoyersville; St. Mary Annunciation, Kingston

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 desire to work together.
- Exploring partnership in sharing staff.
- Working on stewardship and justice together.
- Your willingness to combine CCD and youth programs.
- Appreciating that the number of parish priests is declining.

Recommendations

We have taken seriously your desire to be in partnership and understand that your rationale is based on your desire to collaborate.

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 between St. Ignatius, Kingston and St. Mary, Kingston at the St. Ignatius site, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model Two: Linked Parishes between Holy Name/St. Mary, Swoyersville and Holy Trinity, Swoyersville leading to consolidation within three years at the Holy Trinity site, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model Three: Partnership with Holy Family, Luzerne partnering with the consolidated parishes named above.

We further recommend that:

1. You begin immediately your collaborative efforts as outlined on your Suggestion Form:
 - Combining CCD programs
 - Participating in the Holy Family food pantry
 - Developing a strong adult education program
 - Exploring ways to share administrative staff, a business manager, groundskeepers, etc.
 - Implementing a program for the training of liturgical ministers

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- Exploring stewardship and justice programs
- 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 now and in the future. In addition we considered:

1. Geographical proximity.
2. A realistic appreciation of the availability of priests.
3. The value of combining resources of personnel, facilities and finances.
4. Your desire to collaborate more effectively together.