

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 # **3**

PARISHES: **Holy Rosary, Wilkes-Barre; Maternity BVM, Wilkes-Barre; St. Patrick, Wilkes-Barre; St. Boniface, Wilkes-Barre; Holy Trinity, Wilkes-Barre; St. Joseph, Wilkes-Barre Township**

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:

- The good work done on your suggestion form.
- Your good rationale for consolidation.
- Your willingness to work together with complex issues.
- Your awareness of a growing Hispanic population and your willingness to welcome them.

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 Parishes among Maternity of the BVM, Wilkes-Barre; Holy Trinity, Wilkes-Barre; and Saint Joseph, Wilkes-Barre Township. We also recommend that the parish site be at Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model One: Consolidated Parishes among Saint Patrick, Wilkes-Barre; Saint Boniface, Wilkes-Barre and Holy Rosary, Wilkes-Barre. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Patrick, pending the facility assessment results.

We further recommend that:

1. You locate Hispanic Ministry at Saint Patrick in order to accommodate the growing numbers of Hispanics attending Mass.
2. You re-evaluate the need for the "extraordinary form" of Mass in the Wilkes-Barre area.
3. The rich ethnic heritage of the people in your area be honored and celebrated whenever appropriate.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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6. 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. Your desire to be a stronger parish community.
2. Your commitment to be good stewards of finances.
3. Your willingness to take into account the diminishing number of priests.