

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 # 5

PARISHES: Blessed Sacrament, Wilkes-Barre; St. Francis, Wilkes-Barre; St. John the Baptist, Wilkes-Barre; St. Dominic, Wilkes-Barre

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 creative and courageous planning.
- Your good use of human and financial resources.
- Your willingness to work together and come up with realistic solutions.

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 agree with your suggestion and recommend that as a cluster you enter into:

- Model One: Consolidated Parish among St. Francis of Assisi, Wilkes-Barre; St. John the Baptist, Wilkes-Barre; Blessed Sacrament, Wilkes-Barre; and St. Dominic, Wilkes-Barre. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Dominic, pending the facility assessment results.

We further recommend that:

1. You share your response regarding plans for evangelization which were not included in the current report.
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

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your area. In addition, we considered your rationale from your Suggestion Form that the consolidation model will allow four parishes to:

1. Use priestly leadership more effectively.
2. Join forces to form a larger, more vibrant worshipping community.
3. Reduce expenses and use resources, both human and financial more effectively and efficiently.