

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 # 6

PARISHES: Sacred Heart/St. John Evangelist, Wilkes-Barre; St. Stanislaus Kostka, Wilkes-Barre; Holy Saviour, 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 rationale for wishing to grow your faith communities.
- Your willingness to work together to develop additional services.
- Your attention to the reality of good stewardship of resources and persons.

Recommendations

We have taken seriously your desire for Model One: Consolidation of St. Stanislaus, Sacred Heart/St. John, Wilkes-Barre and to partner with Holy Saviour/St. Christopher, Wilkes-Barre based on your rationale to implement an economy of scale and a desire to provide a better facility for administration.

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 part of your suggestion.

Therefore, we recommend that as a cluster you enter into:

- Model One, Consolidated Parish between St. Stanislaus Kostka, Wilkes-Barre and Sacred Heart/St. John's, Wilkes-Barre at the St. Stanislaus site, pending the facility assessment results. However, we recommend that St. Christopher Mission, Wilkes-Barre be closed.
- Model Two: Linked Parishes between Holy Saviour, Wilkes-Barre and the newly consolidated parish at St. Stanislaus, and be consolidated within three years.

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:

1. Your rationale from your Suggestion Form.
2. The declining population.
3. Limited resources and a desire to promote good stewardship of human and financial resources, including the diminishing number of priests.