

## 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 # 8

PARISHES: Holy Trinity, Nanticoke; St. Stanislaus, Nanticoke; St. Mary Czestochowa, Nanticoke; St. Francis, Nanticoke; St. Joseph (Slovak), Nanticoke; Holy Child, Nanticoke

#### **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 seriousness and realistic approach.
- Your courageous and forward thinking.
- Your desire to create a more vibrant community where sacraments will be celebrated among all the Nanticoke area Catholics.
- Your desire to address the decreasing number of priests.
- Your stewardship of financial and human resources.

#### **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 you enter into:

- Model One: Consolidated Parish among Holy Trinity, Nanticoke; St. Stanislaus, Nanticoke; St. Mary Czestochowa, Nanticoke; St. Francis, Nanticoke; St. Joseph (Slovak), Nanticoke; and Holy Child, Sheatown. We also recommend that the parish site be at Holy Trinity, pending the facility assessment results. There will be an additional worship site which will be reviewed after two years.

We further recommend that:

1. You continue this process of collaboration in all areas of ministry.
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.

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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 your rationale from your Suggestion Form that you:

1. Celebrate the sacraments without burdening priests serving other parishes.
2. Create a larger more vibrant parish community.
3. Improve your financial resources by reducing redundant costs and eliminating the duplication of efforts and services.
4. Offer more opportunities than you currently can.
5. Combine religious education programs, ministries and organizations and apply the best practices of each church.
6. Have more dedicated volunteers for specific ministries, fund raisers and events.
7. Improve communications via only one parish bulletin.