

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 # **9**

PARISHES: **St. Cecilia, Exeter; St. John the Baptist, Exeter; St. Anthony of Padua, Exeter; Our Lady of Sorrows, W. Wyoming; St. Joseph, Wyoming; Immaculate Conception, W. Pittston; Holy Redeemer, Harding**

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:

- Taking into account human and financial resources.
- Your desire to collaborate in many areas of parish ministries.
- Your desire to develop a plan for all buildings and facilities.
- Your desire to create regional and adult religious education programs.

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 Parish within three years between Holy Redeemer, Harding, and Immaculate Conception, West Pittston. We also recommend that the parish site be at Immaculate Conception, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model One: Consolidated Parish within three years among St. John the Baptist, Exeter; St. Cecilia, Exeter, and St. Anthony, Exeter. We also recommend that the parish site be at St. Anthony, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model One: Consolidated Parish within three years between Our Lady of Sorrows, West Wyoming, and St. Joseph's, Wyoming. We also recommend that the parish site be at Our Lady of Sorrows, pending the facility assessment results.
- Model Three: Partnership Parishes among the three consolidated parishes immediately to accomplish your stated goals.

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.

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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.

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 the fact that creating three parishes and forming a partnership among them would maximize available human, facility and financial resources.