

***Called to Holiness and Mission:
Pastoral Planning in the Diocese of Scranton***

Church of Saint Ann



Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, April 5, 2008

St. Ann's Parish Hall



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PARISH REORGANIZATION PROCESS

National, Regional and Local Trends:

- Decrease in Active Catholics
- Decrease in Vocations
- Demographic Shifts in Population
- Financial Challenges



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PARISH REORGANIZATION PROCESS

Trends in the Diocese of Scranton:

- Currently 224 Parishes
- Currently 186 active diocesan priests
- By 2012 there will be 147 active diocesan priests

Urgent need for parish restructuring



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PARISH REORGANIZATION PROCESS

Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Planning:

- All Parishes are participating
- All Parishes establish Parish Councils and Financial Committees (2006)
- All Parishes establish Core Committees (2008) to engage in restructuring process



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Diocesan Pastoral Planning Objectives:

1. Encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
2. Reform the liturgical and catechetical life of the Diocese.
3. Foster adult faith and missionary-spirit formation.
4. Reform parish-based religious education programs.
5. Strengthen the Diocese's apostolates among the faithful who are new in our country.
6. Promote chastity, education and Christian formation in marriage and family life.
7. Implement the timeline for pastoral planning and parish, deanery, vicariate, and diocesan-wide revitalization.
8. Foster stewardship and eliminate indebtedness.
9. Monitor the reform of Catholic schools.



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Immediate Parish Responsibility & Role:

- Establish a Core Committee (limited to 5)
 - Father Ghezzi
 - Patricia Torregrossa
 - John Salvati
 - Sister Joel Marie Sheehe
 - Alan Baranski



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Immediate Parish Responsibility & Role:

- Complete a Parish Assessment of Operations

PARISH ASSESSMENT TASK GROUP

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| - Father Ghezzi | - John Salvati |
| - Joan Prongay | - Joe Ferraro |
| - Jean Marshall | - Doris Robinson |
| - Sister Joel | - Jose' Mendoza |
| - Benito Juarez | - Beth Gesualdi |
| - Johanna Ortegon | |



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Immediate Parish Responsibility & Role:

- Establish a Parish Cluster (directed by Diocese)

Eastern Region Cluster No. 6

- Saint Ann's Parish (Tobyhanna)
- Saint Mary of the Mount (Mt. Pocono)
- Saint Bernadette (Canadensis)



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Review and Verify Parish Data and Trends

– Parish Financial Data

- Operational Income/Expenses, Collections, Payables, Diocesan Billings and Assessments

– Parish Demographics and Activity Data

- Parish registrations, Sacraments administered, CCD registrations, Catholic School registrations, Mass attendance



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Parish Financial Data

2002-2007

- Collections* range from \$260,000 to \$233,000 to \$229,000 to \$241,000 to \$209,000 to currently \$261,000
- Total operating expenses ranged from \$389,000 to \$382,000 to \$391,000 to \$326,000 to \$296,000 to currently \$319,000
- Diocesan Billings and Assessments: Cumulative debt as of June 2007 is approx. \$225,000

Note: *Pending insurance claim of approx. \$72,000 and \$40,000 in Diocesan over-assessment of specific expenses, attribute for approximately half of cumulative debt (under review by Diocese Chief Financial Officer). *Collections do not represent total income.*



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Parish Demographics and Activity Data **2002-2007**

- Parish registrations:
 - No of Families range 1,125 to currently 1,037
 - No. of People range 3,748 to currently 3,741
 - Baptisms range 66 to currently 48
 - First Communion range 95 to currently 61
 - CCD registrations range from 518 to currently 210
 - Catholic School registrations range from 88 to currently 43
 - Mass attendance: average weekly from 1,010 to currently 820



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Parish Assessment of Operations

General Areas of Review:

- Eucharist, Prayer and Communion
- Evangelization, Formation and Education
- Vocation
- Stewardship and Justice
- Stewardship and Administration



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Parish Assessment of Operations

Eucharist, Prayer and Communion:

- Generally strong in all areas of ministry, liturgy and services
- Exceptional to note the parish offers a complete Spanish language ministry
- Weakness in parental participation in English speaking CCD program;
- Strong parental participation in Spanish CCD
- Administration of Sacraments are adequate to strong
- Devotions and prayer services are adequate and are particularly strong in the Spanish Ministry
- Lay leadership structure is in place but needs volunteers



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Parish Assessment of Operations

Evangelization, Formation and Education:

- Parish is characterized by strong multi-cultural congregation
- Spanish speaking ministry is strong in prayer & adult catechetical formation, but adult/parental participation is weak and undeveloped in the English speaking congregation
- Catholic school education curriculum was found to be well established and strong



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Parish Assessment of Operations

Vocation:

- Youth ministries are weak in the parish, but are strengthening in the Spanish speaking congregation
- The parish offers adequate opportunities for adults to increase participation in ministries, and are particularly strong in the Spanish congregation
- Greater outreach and communication of Diocesan vocational programs are needed



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Parish Assessment of Operations

Stewardship and Justice:

- Volunteerism is inadequate in the general parish population, but stronger in the Spanish speaking congregation
- Those who do volunteer their talents, time and efforts are effective
- Ministry and social outreach services to the poor and marginalized needs improvement
- Stewardship of the faith and propagation of the catholic values needs greater participation



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Parish Assessment of Operations

Stewardship and Administration:

- Parish Councils, Committees and volunteer groups are organized but lack sufficient numbers and full cultural representation
- The parish is in serious debt, but collections are stable despite loss of membership
- Fund raising activities are struggling
- Financial administration needs to be stabilized, and the Diocese has been contacted to provide assistance
- The Finance Committee recognizes the need to improve administrative practices
- The parish does not engage in any significant collaborative programs or ministries with other area parishes;



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Parish Assessment of Operations

Stewardship and Administration: con'td

- The Spanish population has well established ties and some shared ministries with other area parishes
- The parish utilizes volunteers to assist with maintenance and operational matters
- Social activities have dwindled in recent years, but are continuing in the Spanish congregation
- There is some participation in Diocesan Ministries.
- Parish facilities are in need of improved maintenance practices
- Parish facilities are well used, but there is inadequate parking for vehicles



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PARISH REORGANIZATION PROCESS

TIMELINE

- **January – February 2008**: Formation of Parish Clusters and Instruction
- **February – March 2008**: Finalize makeup of Parish Clusters and conduct Parish Operational Assessment
- **April 2008**: Initiate Parish Cluster meetings
- **June 15, 2008**: Submit Parish Cluster recommendation of a particular Model (Consolidated, Linked, Partnership, In Solidum/Team) with a rationale to the Diocesan Planning Commission by the Cluster Core Team.
- **By July 15, 2008**: Diocesan Planning Commission completes review of all Cluster recommendations and reveals its Preliminary Recommendation with a rationale back to Cluster of Parishes



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PARISH REORGANIZATION PROCESS

TIMELINE (con'td)

- **By October 1, 2008:** Dialogue between Diocese and Parish Cluster Groups, and response to the Diocesan Planning Commission of a particular Model with a rationale by the Cluster Team.
- **By November 1, 2008:** Diocesan Planning Commission finalizes recommendations
- **January 2009:** Bishop Martino announces decisions
- **July 2009:** Implementation begins at the parish, cluster and diocesan level of all decisions made by the Bishop with needed support.



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PARISH REORGANIZATION PROCESS

Possible Restructuring Models:

1. **Consolidated Parish** – Congregations are merged into one parish with a new identity
2. **Linked Parishes** – Two or more parishes share a pastor and conduct many ministries cooperatively, but have separate finance committees
3. **Partnership Parishes** – Create joint programs, share staff and services
4. **In Solidum (Team)** – Two or more priests working together to serve three or more parishes



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PARISH REORGANIZATION PROCESS

- » Questions**
- » Comments**
- » Concerns**