

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

CALLED TO HOLINESS AND MISSION: *PASTORAL PLANNING IN THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON*

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION *JULY 16, 2008*

COUNTY: Wyoming REGION: West CLUSTER # 12

PARISHES: St. Patrick, Nicholson; St. Mary of the Lake, Lake Winola;
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Tunkhannock

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 prayerful liturgies.
- Your strong Religious Education programs.
- Your solid RCIA process.
- A highly developed social outreach program.
- Your very thorough and exhaustive analysis of the region in their Cluster Report.

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 Two: Linked Parishes between Nativity BVM, Tunkhannock and St. Mary of the Lake, Lake Winola which will be reviewed after two years. We suggest you focus on:
 1. Strengthening youth ministry, (Confirmation through Marriage).
 2. Adult education.
 3. Liturgy and music ministries.
 4. Joint social activities.
- Model Two: Linked Parishes between St. Patrick, Nicholson and Our Lady of the Abingtons, Dalton which will be reviewed after three years with a focus on:
 1. Finances and stewardship.
 2. Outreach to youth and young adults.
- Model Three: Partnership parishes between St. Patrick, Nicholson, Our Lady of the Abington, Dalton, St. Gregory, Clarks Green and Our Lady of Snows, Clarks Summit, with a focus on:
 1. Coordination of Mass schedules in the area.
 2. Shared retreats for liturgical minister and parish leaders.
 3. A shared environmental awareness program.

We further recommend that:

1. St. Mary of the Lake, Lake Winola create a plan for financial viability within two years with the possibility of consolidation with Nativity BVM, Tunkhannock.
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. That 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 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 now and in the future. In addition, we considered

1. The challenges of your geography.
2. The diminishing number of priests.