



RURAL CENTRAL DEANERY

1. GOALS OF THE PROCESS ARE:

- a. Implementation of the Archdiocesan Vision – One Church: encountering Jesus, equipping disciples, living mercy and the transformation of viable and vibrant faith communities.
- b. Establish parish configurations to create and nurture collaborative relationships amongst the parishes.
- c. To assist Archbishop in future assignment of priests.
- d. To transform the model of parish:
 - i. Collaborative parishes working together to form disciples.
 - ii. More actively engage the laity

2. CLUSTERING:

- a. Parish leaders are encouraged to strengthen inter-parish through cooperation and collaboration.
- b. Parishes move to joint parish councils, committees, ministries and services as feasible.
- c. As long as feasible, maintain at least one weekend Sunday mass in each parish location.
- d. All parishes are to critically review Mass attendance and schedules in relation to their parish cluster. As part of the cluster planning process, parishes will assess Mass attendance and schedules.
- e. Each cluster will establish the time frame for facilitating structural levels of cooperation and collaboration; keeping in mind Archdiocesan goal to build unity.

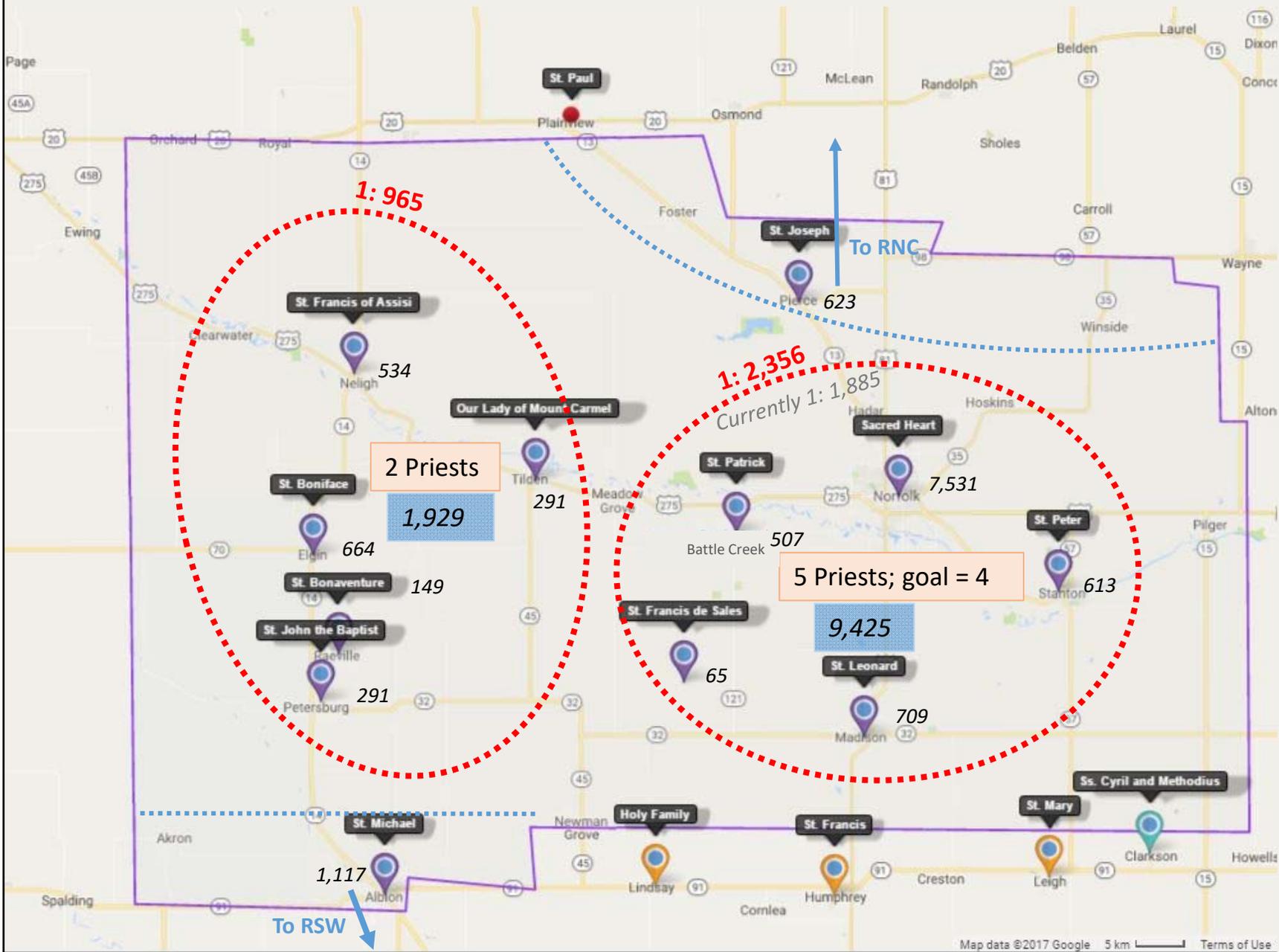
3. PARISH CONFIGURATIONS:

Cluster Neligh, Tilden, Elgin, Raeville and Petersburg. Support of Pope John XXIII school will be continued by the current six member parishes.

- Cluster Population: 1,929
- 2 priests to serve this cluster.
- Ratio of parishioners to priest: 1:964

One Church: encountering **Jesus**, equipping **disciples**, living **mercy**

Collaboration Areas Rural Central Deanery



PASTORAL PLANNING FOR RURAL DEANERIES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA

Beginning in the fall of 2016, parish and diocesan leaders began studying, discussing and praying about how parishes can become more vibrant faith communities. They have submitted a plan which Archbishop George Lucas has approved. The paragraphs below will help you better understand the plan and future steps.

About “Collaboration Areas:” Jesus commissions his followers, “to go forth and make disciples of all the nations.” This is a universal call to all parishes and to all followers of all time. Parishes in the Archdiocese of Omaha view this call in a new vision and specific priorities for action – To become *one Church, encountering Jesus, equipping disciples and living mercy*. Parishes can best achieve this vision and these priorities by collaborating or working together on this mission in geographical areas of the diocese. Building on the clustering which many parishes have already experienced, parishes will now collaborate on a deeper level. This deepening collaboration will develop over months and years following a local plan developed by the parishes.

About the Map: The map illustrates key and easy-to-follow information:

- Ovals or circles with dotted lines – these indicate which parishes will be working together as determined by the consensus of parish, deanery and diocesan planning teams.
- The light orange boxes or Priests box – list the number of priests who will be assigned within the next three years and in the future based on the number of priests projected for the future.
- The light blue boxes or box below the Priest box – state the total number of parishioners in all the parishes in the collaboration area.
- The numbers on top of the dotted lines – provide the priest-to-people ratio in the area.

About the Next Steps: In early 2018, more complete information will be provided about the implementation process. The next steps will include:

- Training for leaders from each parish in a collaboration area
- Ideas and suggestions for the organizational structures and practices in their area
- Resources to help implement the diocesan vision and priorities
- Framework to develop their own implementation plan which will be submitted to the Archbishop

How Can You Help?

- Keep the planning efforts of the diocese and your parish in prayer
- Consider getting involved in a new way with the mission efforts of your collaboration area