



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RURAL CENTRAL DEANERY – DRAFT PLAN

1. GOALS OF THE PROCESS ARE:

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

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.

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3. IMPLEMENTATION:

- a. The recommendations will be formally presented to the Archbishop in November.
- b. After formal acceptance of these recommendations by the Archbishop, the final plan will be announced and published.
- c. The Pastoral Planning Office will facilitate and lead the planning and implementation for all clusters identified in these recommendations.
- d. Timeframes for planning and implementation will vary based on the specific needs of the cluster, in some instances changes may not take place for several years.
- e. Where possible implementation would take place when priests retire or may be assigned to other parishes in the future.
- f. For parish clusters with implementation sometime in the future, initial conversations, cooperation and collaborative efforts will be initiated after the formal approval of these recommendations.

4. PARISH CONFIGURATIONS:

- a. Move Pierce to North Central Deanery. The parish will go through the planning process along with the Rural North Central Deanery.
- b. Move Albion to Rural Southwest Deanery and cluster with Cedar Rapids.
 - a. Cluster Population: 1,468
 - b. 1 priest to serve this cluster.
 - c. Ratio of parishioners to priest: 1:1,468
- c. Clearwater, Deloit (rural Clearwater) and Ewing – are not part of Rural Central Deanery recommendations. These parishes will be kept together in support of Pope John XXIII school in Elgin.
 - i. A school planning process for Pope John XIII will be a separate process from the parish planning process and will begin in the November timeframe.
- d. Cluster Elgin, Raeville and Petersburg and support of Pope John XXIII school.
 - a. Cluster Population: 1,104
 - b. 1 priest to serve this cluster.

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- c. Ratio of parishioners to priest: 1:1,104
- e. Cluster Neligh and Tilden. Maintain Neligh support for Pope John XXIII school.
 - a. Cluster Population: 825
 - b. 1 priest to serve this cluster.
 - c. Ratio of parishioners to priest: 1:825
- f. Cluster Norfolk, Madison, Stanton, Battle Creek, Schoolcraft. Work towards Norfolk as a hub parish working collaboratively and serving the surrounding communities. Upon the retirement of the pastor serving Battle Creek and Schoolcraft, the cluster would need to work with the Schoolcraft community to determine the future for this parish.
 - a. The priests would need to determine how to provide chaplain services to the schools.
 - b. Cluster Population: 9,425
 - c. Initially 5 priests in this cluster
 - i. Ratio of parishioners to priest: 1:1,885
 - d. Long-term: 4 priests would be assigned and
 - i. 1 of the 4 should be Spanish speaking.
 - e. Ratio of parishioners to priest: 1:2,356

5. PRIEST STATISTICS:

- a. Current: 9 Priests
- b. Moving to other deaneries: 2 Priests
- c. Short-term: 7 Priests
- d. Long-term: 6 Priests
- e. Net reduction in 5 years: 1 Priest

RC draft plan 10-31-17

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