

## **Strategic Priorities**

Each of the parishes in the XXXX Planning Group are important for the Church to continue its mission in the \_\_\_\_\_ region, as outlined in the Pastoral Priorities.

However, given the projected decline in the number of available priests to serve in this vicariate (including several past retirement age), the declining number of registered parishioners in three of the parishes, and the financial challenges facing several parishes, we offer the following cluster partner and merger suggestions.

Cluster partners upon the retirement or reassignment of a priest, or at the latest June 2013

- St. BB, St. CC and St. DD
  - All parish activities would continue at St. BB and St. CC sites
  - St. DD would no longer serve as a worship site, but would become the planning group's primary, collaborative outreach site
- St. EE with St. FF

Merger by June 2013

- St. AA with St. GG, with both sites maintained until June 2014, and then closing of one of the sites, to be determined by parishioners and parish leadership

The parishes with debt believe their debt is serviceable except for one parish (St. BB). Because that parish, and its debt, is the result of closings and mergers over the past 20 years, we believe the Archdiocese should work with them to develop a plan for how to adequately service the debt. In addition, one parish (St. EE) has had a small budget deficit every year for the past five years, and is not able to pay all vendors in a timely fashion, but believe that the proposed cluster with St. FF will streamline and decrease administrative expenses.

We continue to encourage the use of laity for increasingly responsible roles in the Church, in support of priest pastors.

#### 4. Lay Leadership

- **The XXXX Planning Group will live out the vision of Lay Leadership through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
  - i. Vicariate yearly budget supporting lay formation classes and conferences
  - ii. Regular peer meetings of business managers, youth ministers, catechetical leaders
  - iii. Protecting God's Children/Called to Serve Training
  - iv. Vicariate-wide formation and training conferences for lay leadership involved in liturgical, formational, commission and conciliar ministries

#### 5. Stewardship and Administration

- **The XXXX Planning Group will live out the vision of Stewardship and Administration through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
  - i. Regular peer meetings of business managers
  - ii. Vicariate-wide parish leadership conferences for professional and volunteer lay leadership involved in liturgical, formational, commission and conciliar ministries, with an emphasis on the time and talent components of stewardship
  - iii. Establishment of Parish Finance Councils in all parishes
  - iv. Transparent financial status updates communicated by all parishes to their parishioners
  - v. Perform periodic parish financial audits

#### 6. Catholic School Education

Regarding Catholic Schools in the XXXX Vicariate, St. FF is a viable and strong parish. Currently we have no vicariate-based details on financial support, transportation, marketing and recruitment. However, we are committed to helping St. FF School stay strong and, should numbers and finances allow it, looking at a regional elementary school in the future on the eastern side of the vicariate.

- **The XXXX Planning Group will live out the vision of Catholic School Education through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
  - i. Several parishes in the vicariate subsidize part of the tuition for their students who attend St. FF School (St. BB and St. GG do so for any Catholic school)
  - ii. Form a vicariate committee to work with St. FF school on how to maintain its vitality yet be embraced more as a regional school
  - iii. Ascertain how the accessibility to a Catholic elementary school can be enhanced for those parishes in the northern part of the vicariate and region
  - iv. Develop model for parish communities to provide financial support to parents sending children to Catholic education
  - v. Encourage outside organizations to consider collaborating in Catholic school funding and aid, including scholarships.

#### 7. Vocations

- **The XXXX Planning Group will live out the vision of Vocations through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
  - i. An annual vicariate Vocations' Mass/event
  - ii. Strengthening vocation awareness efforts in all the parishes, including the formation of vocations' committees to foster all vocations

**XXXX Planning Group, XXXX Vicariate  
Together in Faith Phase Two Executive Summary  
November 2011**

**Pastoral Priorities**

The XXXX Planning Group addresses all seven of the mission priorities of the Church of Detroit, as evidenced in the details of the plan and summarized below. Additionally our most creative and significant initiative is the collaboration already in place for \_\_\_\_\_ . We are committed to continuing all of these and expanding collaboration in the areas of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

**1. Evangelization and Catechesis**

- **The XXXXX Planning Group will live out the vision of Evangelization and Catechesis through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
  - i. “Welcome Home” program (yearly, several week series of evenings focused on Catholics who are no longer connected to parishes, for whatever reason; currently shared between St. AA, St. BB, and St. CC)
  - ii. Vicariate Evangelization Committee (sub-committee of the Lay Leadership Commission with an annual budget, tasked with helping parishes move forward in evangelization efforts)
  - iii. Expanding “Welcome Home” to other vicariate parishes, perhaps on a rotating basis
  - iv. Developing workshops and training opportunities and resources to help form parish members in evangelization and help parishes form/strengthen evangelization committees
  - v. Main attention to be directed at groups/populations that are less connected to current parish life (young adults, non-church going members, etc.)

**2. Christian Service**

- **The XXXX Planning Group will live out the vision of Christian Service through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
  - i. Outreach Center at St. DD
  - ii. Coordination of Food pantry schedules at St. AA, St. EE and St. GG, and collaborative support (financial, donation of food, volunteers) by all parishes
  - iii. Giving/Sharing Tree Projects
  - iv. Vicariate Christian Service Coordinators meet regularly
  - v. Study of needs of seniors in our parishes and current resources, leading to collaborative initiatives in ministering to seniors on multi-parish or whole vicariate level
  - vi. Develop a cooperative multi-parish model for legislative advocacy
  - vii. Develop opportunities for people with disabilities to participate more fully in parish activities and ministries

**3. Youth and Young Adults**

- **The XXXX Planning Group will live out the vision of Youth and Young Adult ministry through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
  - i. Participation in regional initiatives for young adult ministry (St. CC open gym; St. GG young adult Mass; formation events, retreats), including supportive funding
  - ii. Multi-parish planning of young adult-focused events and activities, with the initiative coming from within the vicariate rather than an archdiocesan liaison
  - iii. Better sharing of ideas and use of communication methods for keeping young adults and parishes in contact