

DIOCESE OF MADISON - *GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT*
PLANNING COMMISSION
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO BISHOP MORLINO
MAY 2007

ROCK COUNTY (280)

PARISHES: St. John Vianney, Janesville; St. Mary, Milton; St. Patrick, Janesville;
Nativity of Mary, Janesville; St. William, Janesville

Appreciation

We wish to thank you for the prayer, reflection and work which you have put into the *Guided by the Spirit* planning process. We appreciate the time and effort you have given to discussing our Preliminary Recommendations with your parishes and returning your Response Form to us.

Commendations

We commend you for your

- Thoughtful reflection and presentation of your current reality and future possibilities
- Unique and thorough examination of collaboration and partnering options which allow for the priests to focus on pastoral and sacramental needs
- Clear consideration of the rationale and financial consequences of this new model
- Desire to present a win / win model for all parishes in the cluster that avoids win / loose scenarios

Recommendations

After reflecting on your Response to our Response to our Preliminary Recommendations, the Criteria established by the Planning Commission and the Goals of *Guided by the Spirit* articulated by Bishop Morlino, we make the following recommendation to Bishop Morlino.

1. We accept your suggestion and recommend that you enter into Partnership as a cluster until such time as there is one less priest available to serve.
2. At that time we recommend that your new model be implemented, which combines elements of models three, four and five.
 - a. From model five, leadership team, the priests assigned to the five parishes in this cluster would serve as a team of priests administering to all five parishes. No one priest would be assigned to any one parish, all priests would be assigned to the cluster. In accord with canon law, one of the priests would be assigned by the Bishop as a moderator of the group. The leadership team would consist only of the priests.
 - b. From model four, parish director, each parish would identify a parish administrator who would be on site at the parish and would be responsible for the everyday operations of the parish. Unlike a parish director who is appointed by the Bishop, these parish administrators would be hired by the leadership team. Please recognize that this position may require, dependent upon role definition, approval and appointment by the Bishop.

(over)

- c. From model three, partnership parishes, parish leadership would meet regularly to:
 - build on existing cooperative efforts beyond what is currently in place in Prayer and Worship and Collaboration With Neighbors
 - intensify the development of stewardship at the cluster level
 - study the implications of this new model for all ministries
 - envision how the model will look and function with the cluster parishes
 - work out specific details for the change, including the equal distribution of the expenses associated with shared clergy and shared ministry

We further recommend that as a cluster you:

1. Pray and do all you can to increase vocations to ordained and consecrated life and lay-ministry.
2. Explore the feasibility of less than four Catholic schools serving the cluster in future.
3. Create a Cluster Implementation Team to engage the staffs and pastoral councils in developing an implementation plan and provide regular updates to the parishes, after Bishop Morlino has made his decision about the plans.

Rationale

We make these recommendations based on your own study and concepts found on your Suggestion Form as well as your good stewardship of resources, the current diminishing number of priests, and your desire to enhance your ministries through collaboration with other parishes.

We acknowledge the willingness to explore a new model for ministry and parish leadership in the future, creating a greater sense of unity in the cluster.