

What you need to know...

What do we do if we need more information or have questions that we cannot answer?

Hopefully some information can be obtained from the expertise of the members of your Local Planning Area committee. The committees include the pastors and pastoral coordinators. Specific information regarding the staffing, etc. of an individual parish may be directed to them. Other questions should be directed to the Office of Pastoral Planning.

Are there examples in our Diocese of effective parish clustering?

Yes. There are many parishes that collaborate with others throughout the diocese. A few prominent clusters that can serve as models are:

- Church of the Holy Angels, Church of the Resurrection, St. Paul (all three in Portsmouth), and St. Mary (Bower's Hill)
- Holy Rosary, St. Patrick (both in Richmond), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Quinton), and St. John (Highland Springs)
- St. Mary (Richlands), St. Elizabeth (Pocahontas), St. Theresa (Tazewell), and St. Joseph Mission (Grundy)

How will this process affect the life of my parish?

The goal of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan is to focus on inter-parish collaboration as a means to strengthen and renew the lived expression of Church. As parishes come together in Word, Worship, and Service, both the Church as a whole and each individual parish community will be enriched by sharing resources.

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Our Journey of Faith ...Led by the Holy Spirit



*Implementing
the Diocesan
Pastoral Plan
at your parish*

As the Diocese of Richmond begins implementation of the Pastoral Plan, *Our Journey of Faith...Led by the Holy Spirit*, many parishes have questions about what the plan will mean for them. Some parishes will learn to share their pastor, yet even for those who will not be sharing in that capacity, inter-parish collaboration of some sort is encouraged. Doing so will strengthen the Body of Christ, benefiting each community individually and the diocese as a whole. This brochure provides concrete ideas on how to start the process of collaboration and what resources are available to help the lay faithful better understand and appreciate what it means to be part of a cluster of parishes.

Getting to Know You...

- Host an informal social gathering of pastors, parish, and finance councils
- Invite neighboring parishes to participate in Bible study, prayer groups, or other adult formation programs
- Combine parish picnics
- Include announcements from all parishes within the cluster in each parish bulletin

Collaborative Efforts...

- Come together with neighboring parishes on outreach projects such as food pantries or CARITAS
- If space permits, combine Vacation Bible School programs between parishes
- Offer Stations of the Cross during Lent on a rotating schedule among neighboring parishes
- Arrange for an inter-parish retreat
- Work with another parish to co-sponsor a “sister parish”
- Encourage youth and young adult groups to engage in activities with one another

Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose.

~ Philippians 2:2

To Find Out More...

Books

The Catholic Parish: Hope for a Changing World, Robert J. Hater, Paulist Press, 2004

The Mission Driven Parish, Patrick J. Brennan, Orbis Books, 2007

Sharing More Than a Pastor, Joan C. McKeown, ARC Research, 1993

Pastoring Multiple Parishes, Mark Mogilka and Kate Wiskus, Loyola Press, 2009

Listening to the People of God: Closing, Rebuilding, and Revitalizing Parishes, Charles E. Zech and Robert J. Miller, Paulist Press, 2008

A Concise Guide to Pastoral Planning, William L. Pickett, Ave Maria Press, 2008

Websites

Office of Pastoral Planning, Diocese of Richmond,
<http://www.richmonddiocese.org/planning>

Conference for Pastoral Planning & Council Development, National Pastoral Life Center,
<http://www.nplc.org/cppcd>

Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership,
<http://www.emergingmodels.org>