

Phase 2: Local Area Plan Report Form

To be completed by the Local Planning Area Facilitators.

E-mail completed report to the Office of Pastoral Planning: eneu@richmonddiocese.org by **May 31, 2008**.

A copy of this form can be downloaded from the Diocesan website

www.richmonddiocese.org/PlanningGuidelines.pdf

1. Local Planning Area: 13
2. Name of person completing this report: Sharon Phillips
Phone # and e-mail address: 804-746-4911, sphillips@ChurchRedeemer.org
3. Describe staffing allocation changes to accommodate the reduction or increase of active priests for your local planning area in the next 5 years. Include the names of parishes that will be clustered and the model selected (reference a model included under "Cluster Models" page 29 or describe a model that your Local Planning Committee developed).

Presently LPA 13 has 7 active priest and 2 retired/in residence priests associated with St. Augustine and Sacred Heart. The number of active priests should remain at 7 with 2 being assigned to St. Edward's. Good Samaritan and St. John Neumann should continue to be clustered according to Model III (separate parishes - one pastor). The number of deacons will need to be increased to help with the marriage, baptismal, and annulment requests, which will increase as the number of retired/in residence priests are no longer available to help.

Our Planning Area would recommend that the new director for the Hispanic Apostolate Office begin training, formation, facilitation and recruitment of Hispanic leaders for Sacred Heart, St. Augustine and Good Samaritan parishes in order to help meet the needs of their respective Hispanic communities.

4. Describe other changes that are needed to support the staffing changes proposed.
 - a. An additional priest and deacons, all of whom should be bi-lingual in English/Spanish, will need to be assigned to help with liturgies in both Sacred Heart and St. Augustine parishes. The expected increase in the Spanish population will necessitate this. [There is also a Spanish speaking migrant population in Good Samaritan parish; therefore, consideration should be given to appointing a bi-lingual pastor to the clustered parishes, St. John Neumann and Good Samaritan] [*Sharon: Can't remember if the current pastor is bi-lingual, but if so, the bracketed suggestion should just be deleted as the issue already shall have been addressed.*]
 - b. As the growth of population continues down the Rt. 360 West corridor, an additional priest should be assigned as a full-time pastor for Good Samaritan parish. The projected growth is presently projected by Chesterfield and Amelia Counties over the next 10 years.
 - c. Parishes will need to look into audio/visual aspects of having overflow accommodations in their commons (but no more remote location) for Sunday liturgy. This is partially in response to the need to reduce the aggregate number of Masses in the Planning Area to accommodate the projected reduced number of priests available for Sunday Masses over the planning period.

- d. Education/training of additional staff and/or volunteers will be needed to help priests with responsibilities that they will no longer be afforded the time to fulfill in light of increased pastoral and sacramental duties. Parishes in the Planning Area have been encouraged by the Facilitators to be in touch with the diocesan office for lay formation.
 - e. Diocesan assistance will be required in connection with expansion of church buildings in parishes that are already experiencing overcrowding and expecting increases in parishioners over the planning period. Historically, some of the Parishes in the Planning Area have learned of Catholics choosing to attend Protestant churches when Mass is not available in a convenient location. The Planning Area is concerned that this phenomenon could repeat itself, if churches are in an overflow situation at each Mass.
5. Describe other recommendations that will help parishes in your Local Planning Area provide better services and ministries through inter-parish collaboration.
 - a. The Planning Area recommends that parishes be realigned from Regions into their Local Planning Areas to allow for greater collaboration among various ministries, e.g., youth ministry, adult faith formation, etc. The Planning Area also recommends that following such realignment, staff and volunteer leaders would attend ongoing meetings of the Local Planning Area for their parishes.
 - b. The Planning Area recommends that additional bi-lingual services be made available to the parishes in the Planning Area that require assistance with parishioners who are not fluent in English, particularly with respect to sacramental preparation, faith formation, community life, outreach and other ministries.
 6. If your Local Planning Committee did not reach consensus on these recommendations, please describe how closer your group is to consensus and explain the minority position and/or points of disagreement.

[Bob Kaplan from St. Joseph Parish asked that his opposition to any recommendation of Sunday Mass being celebrated on another day of the week or to allow the Sunday Obligation to be satisfied by attending a prayer or communion service be noted. A copy of his E-mail registering his dissent is attached for the Commission's consideration.]

7. Please include any other information that will assist the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Commission in evaluating your Local Plan (i.e. support by parish leadership, special challenges, etc.).

Statistics show that there are about 34,000 Hispanics living in the Richmond area, and at least 60% of them are Catholic. The Planning Area consensus is that there is a need for further planning to accommodate this growing population within our Diocese.

The Planning Area recommends (note dissenting view referred to above) a broader study be given to celebrating Sunday Eucharist on days other than Sunday and to Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest. Planning Area 13 expects to continue to see growth in both the Anglo and

Hispanic populations; therefore, workable alternatives for meeting the needs of the people are considered a high priority.

Map Showing Inter-Parish Collaboration for LPA 13

