

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: 15
2. Name of person completing this report: Sydney Farnum
Phone # and e-mail address: 276-669-8200 x32, sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.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).

The report form from the Phase I meeting was corrected to show that it was never recommended by this committee that the number of priests in LPA 15 be reduced from 3 to 2. The idea was discussed in a brainstorming session and should not have been listed on the phase 1 report as a recommendation. The recommendation of this planning group is that the number of priests in LPA 15 remain at 3 as stated in the Table of Planning Assumptions for Priest Projections by Planning Area 2007-2012.

It is strongly recommended by this committee that the Region 10 Minister of Religious Education position, the Region 10 Office of Pastoral Planning position, and a third position for shared Hispanic Ministry in this area be filled as soon as possible.

At this time it is recommended that the current clustering remain the same:

Christ the King, Abingdon and St. John the Evangelist, Marion
St. Mary Mother of God, Wytheville and St. Edward, Pulaski
St. Anne, Bristol - not clustered

4. Describe other changes that are needed to support the staffing changes proposed.

No staffing changes proposed at this time.

5. Describe other recommendations that will help parishes in your Local Planning Area provide better services and ministries through inter-parish collaboration.

This committee discussed various areas of ministry that we could possibly do better if we planned for inter-parish collaboration. The specific areas discussed included:

Youth Ministry
Hispanic Ministry
Shared Liturgical Celebrations

Adult Faith Formation

The committee discussed advantages and disadvantages to be considered in these four areas of ministry. Advantages and disadvantages of inter-parish collaboration are listed beginning on page 3 of this report. The committee chose Adult Faith Formation and Youth Ministry as the top two areas of priority.

Recommendations made by the planning group after discussion of feedback from parish meetings:

- Better marketing and more recruitment for the PMLF program needs to take place in LPA 15 parishes. There seems to be a lot of misunderstanding about the program. It is recommended that Deacon Rick Miech make a visit to the LPA 15 parishes to better explain the program. The program needs to take into consideration previous training and education and possibly some kind of an official agreement/contract with those who attend PMLF and have part of their tuition paid by their parish. The contract would guarantee that they serve/minister in their parish for a certain period of time in return for the tuition assistance.
 - It is recommended that in LPA 15 a more intentional effort be made for “Vocation Awareness”, to include the vocation of priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and lay ministry. Since St. Anne’s regularly has a seminarian, he could possibly be more actively involved in vocation awareness in this area.
 - In the area of Adult Faith Formation, it is recommended that the AFF leaders from each of the parishes communicate regularly to exchange ideas and discuss collaboration in AFF. The AFF leaders would be responsible to report to their pastors and pastoral councils the efforts in collaborative adult faith formation. The Region 10 Minister of Christian Formation should be involved in this ongoing communication and we should not overlook the trained/educated “right in our own backyard”.
 - It was also recommended by the planning group that each parish in LPA 15 have a named youth leader who would communicate regularly with the other youth leaders in LPA 15. The leaders would work to provide more youth events to be inclusive of all youth in LPA 15, especially inviting and including the youth from parishes that may only have one or two youth members and to also include the non-Catholic friends of our youth members.
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.

LPA 15 reached consensus on the above recommendation of planning for inter-parish collaboration.

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.).

More shared ministry within the 5 parishes in LPA 15

Advantages:

- Identify and share already trained lay leaders
- Central identification-to hire professionals, share technology, materials
- Proximity to I81 for travel to other parishes
- Consistent and continuity with LPA 15
- The pool of people to draw from to provide services is larger – may be volunteers or paid professionals
- Better quality of service
- A sense of belonging – including the uninvolved parishioner

Disadvantages:

- Distance between parishes
- No structure in place to make sharing happen
- Need to continually catechize on importance of being involved
- Attempt to encourage people to travel to other parish events

Youth Ministry – grades 7 – 12

Advantages:

- Bringing youth together – Catholic identity
- We already have some well trained youth leaders
- It is an advantage for small groups of teens to meet with other Catholic teens

Disadvantages:

- Due to VIRTUS – transportation is difficult
- Few teens in the smaller parishes – can connect with other Catholic teens, but sometimes very difficult
- Teens have other interests and don't come
- Parents support kids going to other youth groups and churches

Ideas for working on disadvantages for Youth Ministry:

- Get a lot more volunteers trained in VIRTUS, and obtain background checks and driver forms
- Include transportation costs in budgets
- Cooperate on bus utilization
- Look at how we do religious education – interesting substance
- Involve teens in planning
- Leaders need to be interested in teens and leaders need to know their faith
- Leaders need to know the 8 components of youth ministry
- Don't forget to be ecumenical

Adult Faith Formation

Advantages:

- Adults are willing to travel for good programs
- Jubilee House Retreat Center offers good programs
- Easy to share with each other – bulletins, newsletters, etc
- We as an LPA 15 can form a team to work with diocesan staff person
- Build community

Disadvantages:

- We don't have a history of professionally training lay leaders, we are beginning at a lower level
- Mobile community – will need to re-train leaders
- No adult leader to help local parish
- No money to pay lay leader
- JHRC is under utilized

Ideas for working on disadvantages for Adult Faith Formation:

- Start training leaders now
- Affirm need for diocesan positions and provide funding
- Better marketing of training programs
- Better vocational awareness, including lay leadership training

Shared Liturgical Celebrations

Advantages:

- The parish communities that are already clustered are doing some of this sharing
- We are building community

Disadvantages:

- Getting people to change locations
- Getting people to attend clustered activities

Hispanic Ministry

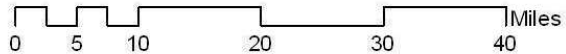
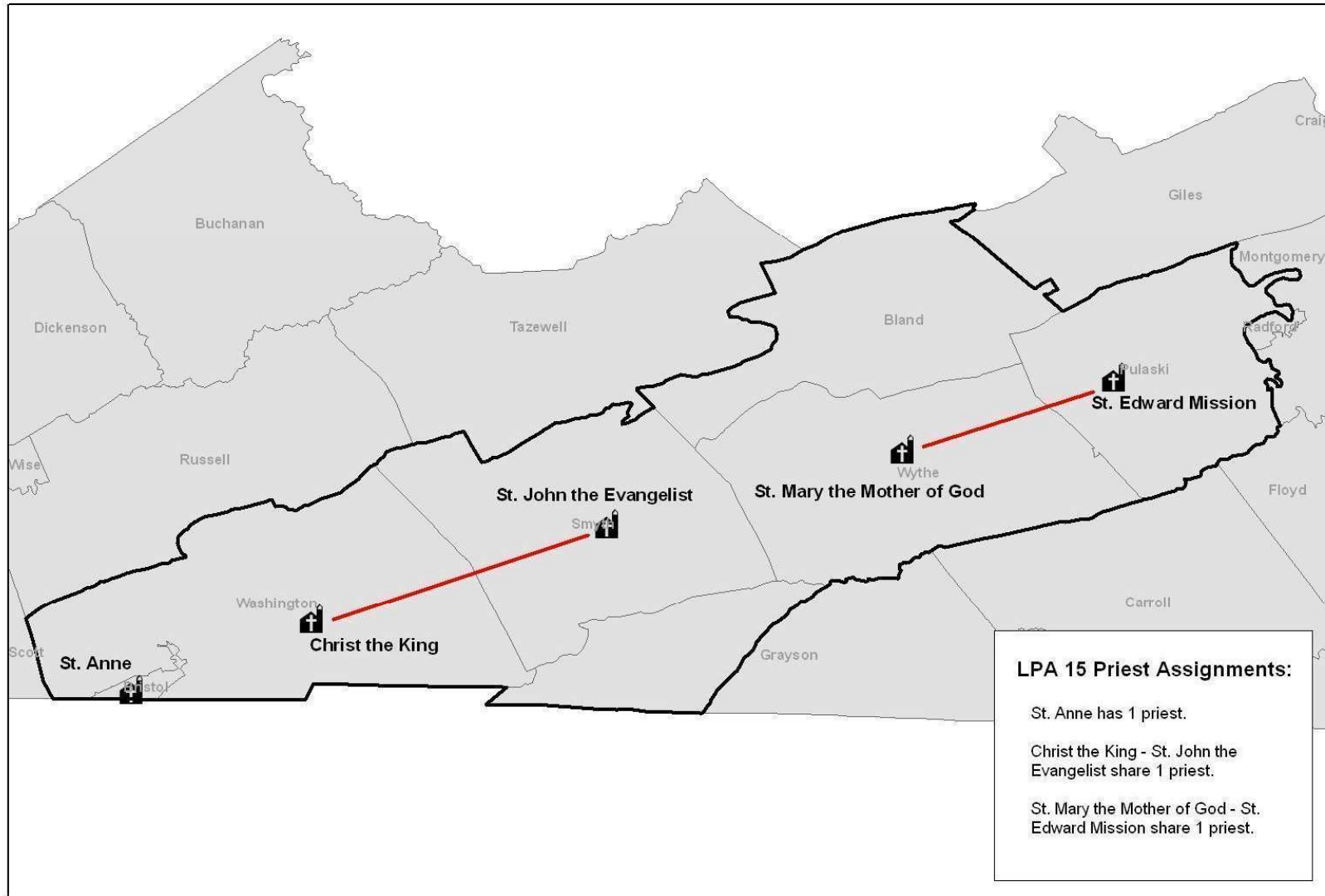
Advantages:

- Untapped resource to recruit people to justify full-time Hispanic minister
- Consolidate special Spanish services
- Training leaders with Hispanic community
- Bring in the children for CCD

Disadvantages:

- Geography is a larger problem because of homes of the Hispanic population
- The Hispanic population has not reached a critical mass to justify full-time position

Map Showing Inter-Parish Collaboration for LPA 15



Map created by: Office of Pastoral Planning, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, 2008

