

## 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](mailto:eneu@richmonddiocese.org) by **May 31, 2008**.

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

[www.richmonddiocese.org/PlanningGuidelines.pdf](http://www.richmonddiocese.org/PlanningGuidelines.pdf)

1. Local Planning Area: 19
2. Name of person completing this report: Anne Gibbons  
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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 committee views the issue of staffing our parishes as among the most important facing the LPA. Accordingly, the committee spent significant time and effort considering the means by which our sacramental needs could best be met both in the event that four priests were assigned to LPA 19, as envisioned by Diocesan planning, and in the event that only three priests are available. The results of these discussions are outlined below.

### ***Staffing LPA 19 with four priests***

Assumptions:

- No sacramental priests will be included as part of a regular, long-term staffing plan.
- No priest will say more than two Masses on any weekday or more than three on any Sunday, unless approved by the Diocese.
- The four priests are not necessarily those currently in the LPA.

*Option A: St. Elizabeth of Hungary remains open and requires staffing:*

Priest 1: St. Joseph, Martinsville: 1 Mass Saturday evening, 2 Masses Sunday (one in Spanish)

Priest 2: Sacred Heart, Danville: 1 Mass Saturday evening, 2 Masses Sunday (one in Spanish)

Priest 3: St. Pascal Baylon, South Boston: 1 Mass on Saturday, 1 Mass on Sunday and 1 Mass at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Brookneal.

Priest 4: St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville, and Good Shepherd, South Hill: 1 or 2 Masses on Saturday evening, and 1 or 2 Masses on Sunday morning. At least one of the three masses at St. Catherine and Good Shepherd will be in Spanish.

*Option B: St. Elizabeth of Hungary does not require staffing:*

Priest 1: St. Joseph, Martinsville: 1 Mass Saturday evening, 2 Masses Sunday (one in Spanish)

Priest 2: Sacred Heart, Danville: 1 Mass Saturday evening, 2 Masses Sunday (one in Spanish)

Priest 3: St. Pascal Baylon, South Boston: 1 Mass on Saturday, 1 Mass on Sunday and 1 Mass at St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville.

Priest 4: St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville: 1 Mass Sunday, and Good Shepherd, South Hill: 1 Mass on Saturday evening, and 1 Mass on Sunday morning. One of the four masses at Good Shepherd and St. Catherine would be in Spanish

*Notes:*

Both options A and B essentially perpetuate the assignment of priests in the LPA prior to June 2007. Currently Fr. Silvio says two masses at each of St. Catherine and Good Shepherd; were St. Elizabeth to remain open (Option A) Priest 4 might continue such a schedule with Diocesan permission.

A concern regarding implementation of either option is the ability of St. Paschal Baylon to support a full-time priest: currently the finance council at St. Paschal Baylon feels that regular collection support is insufficient for this task. Still, staffing the LPA with four priests is essential to properly meet the sacramental needs of the constituent parishes, and financial support for this priest might come either from additional revenues resulting from increased attendance at Mass with a resident priest, or through grant programs available to Mission Parishes. Two such funding mechanisms are available to parishes with need for support: the Home Missions Program and the Grant program promulgated in the Diocese in March 2008.

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

**Develop LPA 19 Interparish Cluster Council (2 representatives from each parish)**

Suggestions: Try to have parish representatives that reflect the demographic makeup of each parish.. Ex.: Parishes with a significant Hispanic population have at least one of the cluster council representatives be Hispanic. Encourage cluster council to meet quarterly.

**Define, Support, Encourage and Promote Diaconate Process**

LPA 19 needs to encourage and support men to explore the diaconate.

Suggestion: Invite Fr. Mark Lane and Deacon Bob Ewen to one of the early meetings of LPA 19 Cluster Council to discuss the Diaconate program. Explore online educational opportunities.

Provide financial support for Diaconate candidates/share resources from the community.

**Each parish in LPA 19 promote the priesthood as a vocation at all levels, utilizing Diocesan resources as available.**

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

**Expand Outreach to Latinos & Develop Ministries for/with them**

Suggestions: In future decisions about placement of priests in LPA 19 make every effort to assign one who is a fluent Spanish speaker. Recruit a Spanish speaking Religious Order of nuns from South/Central America to do pastoral work.

**Address Need for Prison & Jail Ministry**

One significant recommendation that came out of our meetings was that there be an explicit statement of support for our prison and jail ministry, and that the Diocese consider ways to staff, financially support, and offer training for this important ministry. There are a significant number of prisons and jails in LPA 19. In fact, our region has a disproportionately high number of prisons and jails compared to the rest of the Diocese. This is clearly an underserved ministry. Prison work is extremely demanding and time consuming, and it is unclear exactly how any current person in ministry will be able to give each member of this significant and underserved Catholic community the time and attention they deserve. It would thus be helpful to bring to the attention of the Diocese this unmet need, and to urge them to consider in a systematic way how staffing might be achieved.

### **Re-examine the Role of Women in Ministry in the Church**

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.

N/A

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.).

Overall, the members of LPA 19 were convinced of the presence and movement of the Holy Spirit throughout the process. Members of the committee were able to reach consensus after lively and respectful debate and discussion on all the recommendations. Additionally, all noted the similarities among the parishes in terms of very positive responses and turnouts at their town meetings. Our time was well spent.

# Map Showing Inter-Parish Collaboration for LPA 19

