

## 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: 6
2. Name of person completing this report: Bob Ewan  
Phone # and e-mail address: 804-359-5661, [bewan@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:bewan@richmonddiocese.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).

Local Planning Area 6 has met as a leadership group and has held meetings with groups of parishioners in the Local Planning Area to explain the planning process, to convey the priorities as established by the planning group, and to obtain feedback from parishioners throughout the planning area. The priorities established are as follows:

- Maintain the weekend celebration of Mass at each parish throughout the Local Planning Area.
- Group parishes to provide back up for each other liturgy, formation and pastoral care.
- Begin to identify qualified leadership for the future (deacon candidates and lay ecclesial ministers) and encourage and support their education, training, and development.
- Create sustainable communication within the Local Planning Area.

Parish Groupings (Clusters): Saint Olaf and Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament would group as a cluster; Visitation, Saint Therese and Saint Francis would form another cluster and Saint Bede would continue to stand alone. The clusters would begin to investigate synergies and would work to back each other up for liturgy, formation and pastoral care. Saint Bede would provide a source of central support and backup for the LPA for liturgy, catechesis, and pastoral care. Saint Bede could also serve as the location for major Sacramental, educational, and catechetical events for the whole LPA. In the foreseeable future, these groups will be established as links with the current pastor's working together and remaining pastors.

**Saint Bede** – The plan calls for two priests, a pastor, and a parochial vicar. The parish will provide support to all parishes within the LPA when necessary in the areas of Christian Formation, youth and adult education, and pastoral care. We recommend that Campus Ministry of William & Mary will, at some future point, be part of the parish priest's responsibility. At this time, we recommend that the current situation of weekend coverage for W&M campus supplemented by the parochial vicar of St. Bede be maintained.

**Saint Olaf & OLBS** – The plan calls for two priests (currently pastor and administrator) be assigned for this cluster. The parish should coordinate activities in the areas of formation, pastoral care. Mass scheduled should be set so that the priests can back each other up in the event one is not capable of presiding at a specific Mass due to illness or some other situation forcing their absence. The parishes should receive instruction on the Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest and leaders for such celebrations should be trained in the exceptional event that they become necessary.

**Visitation, Saint Francis, and Saint Therese** – The plan calls for two priests for the cluster (currently 2 pastors). The parishes should coordinate activities in the areas of formation, pastoral care. Mass schedules should be set so that the priests can back each other up in the event one is not capable of presiding at a specific Mass due to illness or some other situation forcing their absence. The parishes should receive instruction on the Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest and leaders for such celebrations should be trained in the exceptional event that they become necessary.

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

**Mass Schedule:** In order to maintain the Mass schedule, the proper grouping of parishes must be accomplished. Parishes working together will then develop a system for backing each other up for liturgy. In some cases, this will require that weekend Mass times be adjusted. It will also require that appropriate deacons and lay ministers be identified and trained to preside at the Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest when this becomes absolutely necessary.

**Leadership:** Parishes have already begun to identify and recommend lay ministers for PMLF training. Men aspiring for the diaconate have also been identified from parishes within the LPA. Our current situation allows for parish groupings to be developed by the existing pastors. In the long term, cluster configurations involving pastors and parochial vicars should be investigated.

**Communication:** Members of the LPA have already begun sharing information for bulletins and are experimenting with an information Blog for the parishes within the LPA. A task force will be assembled to work on improved communication over the next five years.

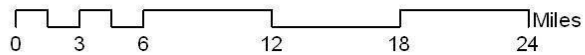
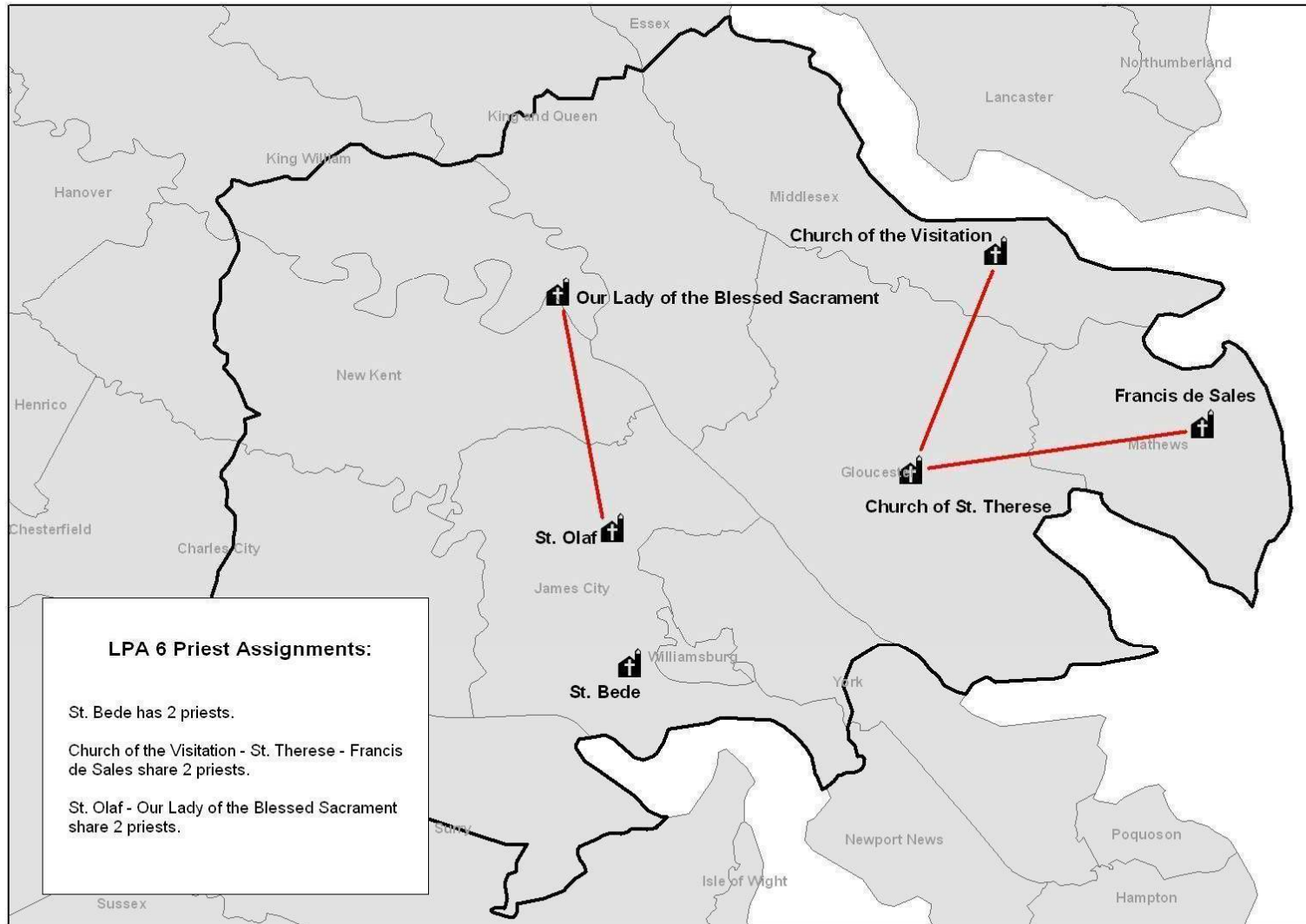
5. Describe other recommendations that will help parishes in your Local Planning Area provide better services and ministries through inter-parish collaboration.

The Local Planning Area leadership made up of pastors and representatives will stay intact as a group and establish an ongoing quarterly meeting schedule to discuss progress on the plan and other related issues. The members also request that major liturgical functions (Confirmation) be celebrated together as mentioned above (Saint Bede) to promote a sense of identity for the Local Planning Area.

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.

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.).

# Map Showing Inter-Parish Collaboration for LPA 6



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

