

Pastoral Plan for the Nativity of Mary Deanery

Diocese of Steubenville

I. TIME LINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The TIME LINE for implementation of the plan is based on several factors and would occur gradually over a period of years.

- A.) The target date given to the Deanery by the diocesan administration is 2010.
- B.) One change has already taken place, i.e., St. Mary, Pine Grove is being administered by the Ironton Catholic Community.
- C.) Five of the eight priests presently assigned to the deanery will be 65 or older in 2007. Most likely the implementation of some aspects of the plan will coincide with the retirements of these priests and/or change of assignments for the other priests in the deanery.

II. PARISH RECONFIGURATION

- A.) Athens County
 - 1.) In the city of Athens, St. Paul's and Christ The King Parishes would become "CLUSTERED PARISHES" with St. John's, Guysville remaining as a "CHAPEL".
 - 2.) St. Mary of the Hills, Nelsonville and Holy Gross, Glouster would remain as "CLUSTERED PARISHES".
- B.) Meigs County
 - 1.) Sacred Heart, Pomeroy would remain as a "PARISH" for the entire county.
- C.) Gallia County
 - 1.) St. Louis, Gallipolis would remain as a "PARISH" for the entire county.
- D.) Lawrence County
 - 1.) The Ironton Catholic Community would remain as "CLUSTERED PARISHES" but would take on the additional responsibility for St. Mary, Pine Grove as a "MISSION". St. Mary's is presently designated as a parish. It would officially become a MISSION.
 - 2.) St. Ann, Chesapeake would remain as a "PARISH".

III. STAFFING

- A.) Athens County
 - 1.) In the City of Athens there would be one Pastor for the clustered parishes and a Parochial Vicar.
 - 2.) In Nelsonville/Glouster there would be one Pastor for the clustered parishes.
- B.) Meigs County
 - 1.) In the City of Pomeroy there would be one Pastor.
- C.) Gallia County
 - 1.) In the City of Gallipolis there would be one Pastor.
- D.) Lawrence County
 - 1.) In the City of Ironton there would be one Pastor for the clustered parishes and the mission at Pine Grove.
 - 2.) In the City of Chesapeake there would be one Pastor.
 - 3.) There would be an expectation that the Pastor of St. Ann's, Chesapeake would help on weekends by celebrating one liturgy at the Ironton Catholic Community or at St. Mary's, Pine Grove. This is the only way standard #5 could be met, i.e., "...no priest will celebrate Mass on a regular basis in more than two churches..." This would also mean cutting the number of weekend Masses at St. Ann's from three to two.

IV. SHARED PROGRAMMING OF MINISTRY

Nativity Deanery is nearly 90 miles in length. So it is difficult to have shared ministry for the whole deanery. However, we have developed a deanery website which lists dates, times, places of various ministries available in the deanery (e.g., marriage preparation programs, DivorceCare, GriefCare, Counselors with a Catholic perspective, etc.) as well as diocesan workshops and programs. See <http://home.catholicweb.com/NativityMaryDeanery/>

A.) Athens County

1.) Most of the programming for the Athens City parishes has already been consolidated, i.e. one rectory, one religious education program, one St. Vincent de Paul Society, one St. Francis Society, one RCIA, one Newman Community, one youth group, a shared DRE, etc. Administration, finances, and some support people (secretaries, music ministry, maintenance staff) are still separate.

2.) Most of the programming for St. Mary, Nelsonville and Holy Cross, Glouster has already been consolidated, i.e. one DRE, one sacramental preparation program, one RCIA, one shared secretary, etc. In addition, priests from Hocking, Athens, and Meigs Counties work together to provide weekly mass at the state prison in Nelsonville.

B.) Meigs County

1.) Sacred Heart Parish would continue to provide all ministry for Meigs County.

C.) Gallia County

1.) St. Louis Parish would continue to provide all ministry for Gallia County.

D.) Lawrence County

1.) The Ironton Catholic Community has already consolidated many ministry programs with participation of St. Joseph, St. Lawrence and St. Mary Parishes. This consolidation is expected to continue.

2.) St. Ann's will continue to provide ministry to the parish and continue to work with the Ironton Catholic Community in some areas of ministry, e.g., the Catholic Elementary and High Schools.

V. VOCATIONS PROMOTION

1.) Invite the Director of Vocations to come to Nativity Deanery and spend several days celebrating Sunday Liturgies, speaking to various groups, meeting with individuals, giving vocation presentations in the Catholic Schools, etc. This would be similar Bishop Conlon's pastoral visits. (Fr. Tim Shannon has already done this successfully in the Athens Parishes including spending one day in the parochial school in Ironton.)

2.) Continue to invite young men to the Andrew dinners.

3.) Support young men studying for the diocese by remembering them in prayer.

4.) Work with the Office of Vocations to develop further programs to promote vocations.

VI. OTHER

1.) The development of a diaconate program should be pursued.

2.) Mass schedules need to be adjusted and the number of Masses reduced in some parishes to meet Standards #5 and #8. Because of varying circumstances this needs to be determined at the local level.

After examining the document PARISH CONFIGURATION IN THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE we believe that this plan meets the "Guidelines for parish configuration", "Definitions" and "Standards" listed in that document.

Submitted to Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon on April 23, 2007.