



Diocesan-wide Dialogue on Pastoral Leadership

SPRING 2015

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Local Parish Preparation

Regional Mtgs 6:30-8:30pm

- April 14
St. Maria Goretti,
Lafin
- April 30
St. Luke's Hall,
Stroudsburg
- May 5
SS Peter and Paul,
Towanda
- June 16
Sacred Heart Hall,
Peckville
- June 17
Diocesan Pastoral
Center, Scranton
- June 22
St. Ignatius,
Kingston
- June 23
St. John Bosco,
Conyngham
- June 24
St. Joseph Hall,
Williamsport

In order to prepare for the Pastoral Leadership Dialogue with Bishop Bambera, each parish is asked to gather members of your Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council, Parish Staff and other key parish leaders to discuss your input for several topics of interest to the whole Diocese. Here are recommended steps to guide you:

1. Listen together to Bishop Bambera's homily for the Second Sunday of Easter. This will be shared in all parishes at Masses on that weekend (April 11-12). Read the Parish Handout provided to accompany the video.
2. After some general impressions from the homily, focus on the discussion exercise printed on the following pages. The questions on page 2 refer to an article also included in the Pastor's Packet. It may be helpful for participants to have time to work on this individually in advance of a gathering time for faith-sharing.
3. Designate a recorder for your conversation, so that the highlights and consensus can be saved for your own purposes and for the Pastoral Leadership Dialogue with Bishop Bambera. (Please also know that your work on this exercise will complete Part Three of your Annual Parish Report for this year. Record in any form you prefer.)
4. Once you have concluded the reflection, determine which 5-6 parish representatives will accompany your pastor for the Regional Dialogue. Make sure someone registers your group for the specific date and location, shown at left, which your parish has chosen to attend.
(For questions, and to register, call the Office for Parish Life: 570-207-2213)
5. Pray for the whole Church of Scranton, all 120 parishes in eleven counties, that this will be a time of continued renewal and creativity as each person brings their particular gifts and sense of vocation to the service of the mission of Christ entrusted to us all together.

Call, Charism, Collaboration and Christ

Read the article, *Lay Ecclesial Ministry Today and the Pastor of Tomorrow*. Referring especially to the sections with headings Call, Charism and Collaboration, consider these questions:

1. What are some ways that your parish conveys the message that each person is called and gifted to share in the mission of Christ? Are there some new ways you would like to do this?

2. Describe your vision of your parish “at its best” in terms of full participation and collaboration between the laity and the clergy. What are some areas of ministry for which you believe the parishioners could become more responsible?

3. What are some valuable gifts, talents, areas of expertise and pastoral sensitivity present in members of your parish community which might be under-utilized at this time? How can you call forth more “co-workers in the vineyard?”

4. If your parish is currently linked, or if it became linked with one or more parishes in the future, what are the most important aspects of ministry that you need from your Pastor?

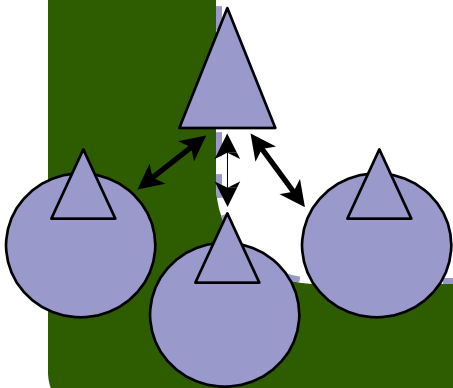
There is in our tradition a conviction that God calls each of us to some unique work and way of living that is profoundly personal. Our personal call to holiness takes place within the universal call to holiness and within a particular state of life, but it cannot be reduced to these. Each of us has a personal vocation.



Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership

Study the CARA National statistics, and the Diocesan summary of priest personnel (chart on pg. 4). Keep in mind, from Bishop's message, that we are approaching a time when there will be fewer active Pastors than open parishes. Bishop Bambera also expressed that our current focus is on working together to develop the necessary pastoral leadership to sustain all of our parishes, in ways that the Church provides. Consider these questions from that perspective:

1. Are you aware of examples from other Dioceses about how this clergy shortage is resolved?
2. What do you see as some benefits and some challenges of linking two or more parishes with one Pastor? How can the pastoral leadership needs be best supported in this situation?
3. Do you see ways for yourself or others in your parish to exercise more expanded leadership? Describe this.
4. How do you think the anticipated changes in leadership roles will affect the priests you know? The parishioners? The lay leaders who work in parishes?
5. What are your thoughts about the service of a Parish Life Coordinator in your parish?



National Statistics: Clergy, Religious, and Lay Leaders; Leaders in Formation	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Total priests	52,124	49,054	45,699	41,399	39,993	38,275
Diocesan priests	34,114	32,349	30,607	28,094	27,182	26,265
Religious priests	18,010	16,705	15,092	13,305	12,811	12,010
Priestly ordinations	595	511	442	454	459	494
Graduate-level seminarians	3,658	3,172	3,474	3,308	3,483	3,631
Permanent deacons	9,356	10,932	12,378	14,574	16,649	17,464
Permanent deacon candidates	1,980	2,026	2,497	2,342	2,445	2,018
Religious sisters	102,504	90,809	79,814	68,634	57,544	49,883
Religious brothers	6,721	6,535	5,662	5,451	4,690	4,318
Lay Ecclesial Ministers in parish ministry (most recent survey-based estimates; including vowed religious and other lay persons)	21,569	29,146	--	30,632	37,929	39,651
Enrollment in Lay Ecclesial Ministry formation programs	--	21,800	31,168	16,037	17,935	22,791
National Statistics: Parishes and the Catholic Population	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014
Parishes	19,620	19,331	19,236	18,891	17,958	17,483
Parishes without a resident priest pastor	1,812	2,161	2,843	3,251	3,353	3,496
Canon 517.2 parishes where a bishop has entrusted the pastoral care of the parish to a deacon or some other person (e.g., a religious sister, religious brother, or other lay person)	249	314	447	553	469	388
Percentage of diocesan priests active in ministry	80%	76%	74%	70%	68%	68%
Active diocesan priests per parish	1.4	1.2	1.2	1	1	1
Catholic population (<i>The Official Catholic Directory; parish-connected Catholics</i>)	55.7m	57.4m	59.9m	64.8m	65.6m	66.6m
Catholic population (self-identified, survey-based estimate)	62.4m	65.7m	71.7m	74.0m	74.6m	76.7m
Diocesan Statistics: Clergy, Religious, Lay Leaders and Leaders in Formation	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Diocesan Priests	391	369	332	338	292	241
Diocesan Priests in Active Ministry	316	276	248	228	162	131
% of priests in active ministry	86	81.5	80.4	73.4	64.4	62.2
Religious Priests	99	91	108	70	60	48
Diocesan Priesthood Ordinations	6	6	3	2	2	0
Seminarians	44	21	21	19	6	9
Permanent Deacons	6	31	48	64	65	66
Women Religious	1015	915	776	650	523	390
Lay Ministers	0	0	20	25	35	35
Diocesan Statistics: Parishes and Catholic Population						
Total parishes	219	202	198	189	130	120
Parishes w/o resident pastor	0	4	1	5	13	14
Total Catholic population	350,496	362,414	343,820	347,927	323,047	278,964