

## WHAT HAPPENED IN APRIL ...

### Cohorts work toward formulating suggestions

*Planning Commission prepares  
for next step of process*

The month of April was dedicated to the ongoing work of the Cohorts, as they continue to analyze the different realities in place among their parishes and discuss what organizational models might be suggested. As the schedule for Step 2 requires, the Cohorts will have met a total of six times between March and May and will be ready to submit their suggestions to the Diocesan Planning Commission by the beginning of June.

**Need to catch up?**  
UPDATES for previous months, including a listing of Cohorts, can be found at [dioceseoftrenton.org](http://dioceseoftrenton.org)

During this time, Cohort team members are encouraged to keep their parishes apprised of their work via parish bulletin announcements or other means. At the same time, all are reminded that the suggestions that are developed in this phase of the process are just that – only suggestions.

There are several levels of review and discussion that will have taken place before recommendations are made to Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., and only the Bishop makes the final determination as to what recommendations will be put in place.

Preparatory work has also been underway by the members of the Planning Commission, who will formally come together from June 14-16 to review all Cohort evaluations and suggestions, as well as parish evaluations and data

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## MONTHLY UPDATE Highlights for April 2016

This MONTHLY UPDATE is a report from the Diocese of Trenton on Faith in Our Future, the pastoral planning process to strengthen parishes.

### DIOCESAN PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

*(Grouped by county for which they will serve.)*

#### **Burlington County**

**Stephanie Engelstad** of St. Rose Parish, Belmar, is an accountant and former member and chairwoman of the parish finance committee. She still serves as current part-time business manager.

**Msgr. Richard LaVerghetta**, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Marlton, has been a priest since 1986. On the diocesan level, he was director of youth and young adult ministries and as a former secretary he oversaw the departments of Worship, Parish Life and Spiritual Renewal.

**Father René Pulgarin**, pastor of Christ the Redeemer Parish, Mount Holly, was ordained in 2004 and has served as parochial vicar in several parishes. He will transfer to St. Joseph Parish, Keyport, in July, as pastor.

**Deacon Dr. Thomas Kolon** of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Moorestown, is an associate professor in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. He serves as director of his parish's respect life committee, and is president of the ethics committee of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

**Daughter of Charity Sister Joanne Dress** of the Diocese of Trenton Chancery, Lawrenceville, is the executive director of Catholic Social Services for the Diocese. She was also a committee member in the Archdiocese of New York during a re-configuration of parishes in 2007-08.

#### **Mercer County**

**Robert Dunne III** of St. David the King Parish, Princeton Junction, is chairman of the diocesan finance council. He has worked in both parish ministry and on Wall Street.

**Trinitarian Father Gerard Lynch**, pastor of St. Ann Parish, Lawrenceville, has been a priest for 42 years, spending nearly three decades as pastor in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Asbury Park. He has also served his religious community as provincial secretary, treasurer, ministerial conventual and director of novices.

**Sandra Lopez** of St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral Parish, Trenton, is a catechist and spiritual director, who serves as diocesan coordinator of Hispanic ministry initiatives.

**Nanci Bachman** of St. David the King Parish, Princeton Junction, is a commissioned lay ecclesial minister and spiritual director. She also is an associate with the Sisters of Mercy.

**Dottie Guerrasio** of St. Denis Parish, Manasquan, is a commissioned lay ecclesial minister. She has served as director of religious education, as well as a catechist and member of a baptismal preparation team.

#### **Monmouth County**

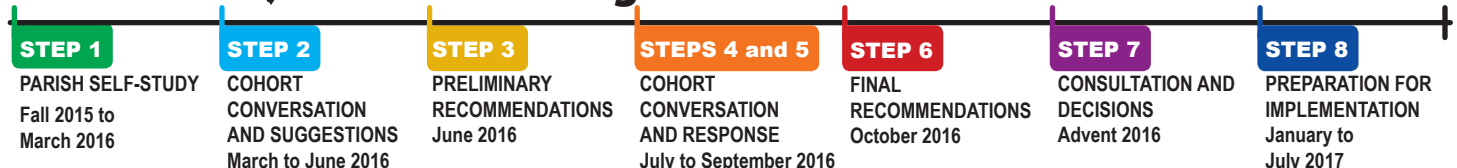
**James Trainor**, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Freehold.

**Father Harold Cullen** is pastor of St. Catharine-St. Margaret Parish, Spring Lake, a parish comprised of two churches and a parish school, two cemeteries and two mausoleums. He is also a licensed psychologist and a state and nationally certified school psychologist.

**Divine Word Father Guilherme Andrino**, parochial vicar in St. Anthony Claret Parish, Lakewood, where he also

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## Planning Process Timeline



# Parish Organizational Models

The Diocese of Trenton has been blessed with many parishes which have served millions of people for more than 130 years. Today, given changing demographics, increasing needs of parishioners, the anticipation of fewer priests to serve the Diocese, and the strain on facilities and finances, we are called to better steward our resources so that we can truly and in the best way possible meet the needs of active Catholics and share our faith with those who are marginalized or who have not yet heard the Good News.

As we look to the future, new models for parishes are needed. The Parish Cohorts are being asked to consider six different organizational

models. An overall principle of **Faith in Our Future** is that parishes are more effective if they work together in ministry areas. It is envisioned that every parish community will collaborate with other parish communities where appropriate and feasible. It is also that in many Cohorts, more than one model will be suggested.

The Parish Models up for consideration appear here in brief. For a fuller explanation of the models, go to [dioceseoftrenton.org/faithinourfuture](http://dioceseoftrenton.org/faithinourfuture) and click on **GENERAL INFO**.

**MODEL ONE: COLLABORATIVE PARISHES** • A formal cooperative relationship is formed among parishes in order to serve a unified mission.

**MODEL TWO: LINKED PARISHES**

• When two or more parishes share a pastor.

**MODEL THREE: MERGED PARISHES** •

Two or more parishes come together to form a new parish community.

**MODEL FOUR: IN SOLIDUM TEAM** •

A team of priests serving three or more parishes.

**MODEL FIVE: PARISH LIFE DIRECTOR**

• The Bishop may appoint a deacon, religious or lay person to be the day to day leader of a parish community with a priest assigned to provide sacramental care.

**MODEL SIX: PERSONAL PARISHES** •

Parishes established by reason of the rite, language or nationality of the Christian faithful of a given area.

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verification forms before making their Preliminary Recommendations.

Cohort team members will receive the Preliminary Recommendations from the Planning Commission with rationales the week of June 27, at which time they will devote several more weeks to further study and discussion. The DPC will meet again in October to review the Cohort responses and bring together a set of Final Recommendations for Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., to consider.

The 21 men and women who make up the Diocesan Planning Commission are priests, deacons, women religious, and lay men and women from all four counties of the Diocese who have been identified because of their experience in the parish, school and ministry setting, or their professional expertise.

Terry Ginther, executive director of the Diocese's Office of Pastoral Life and Mission, explains, "We have tried to place a finance person, pastor, educator or faith formation person, Hispanic or multicultural minister, and pastoral care or social service person in each group. Most, but not all, live or minister in the county to which we have assigned them."

**The list of Planning Commission members begins on front page.**

*This report is issued by the Diocese's Office of Communications. To contact us, write to [dotcomm@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:dotcomm@dioceseoftrenton.org) or call (609) 403-7199.*

## PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS CONTINUED

serves as youth coordinator and catechist in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults process. He also serves the African, African American, Brazilian and Portuguese communities in the Diocese.

**Jennifer Schlameuss-Perry** of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Freehold, has served on a number of diocesan committees and commissions. She also has served as a pastoral associate and has provided presentations as a master catechist at parishes across the Diocese.

**Robert Abatemarco** of St. Barnabas Parish, Bayville, is a Catholic educator who has served as principal of Red Bank Catholic High School for more than 20 years.

**Barbara Smith** of Sacred Heart Parish, Bay Head, has served as a social worker and director of admission of the Andrus Children's Center, Yonkers, and currently serves on the board of Andrus on its executive committee and as chair of its program committee.

### Ocean County

**Edward Smith** of Sacred Heart Parish, Bay Head, is a member of the finance committees both his parish and the Diocese of Trenton. He has worked as an investment banker at major Wall Street firms, and is a board governance

consultant and member of the faculty of the National Association of Corporate Directors Board Advisory Services Group.

**Father K. Michael Lambeth**, pastor of St. Theresa Parish, Little Egg Harbor, has served terms on the diocesan building commission and council of priests, and as diocesan director of vocations.

**Cynthia Craft** of St. Pius X Parish, Forked River, serves as director of religious education. She also is a commissioned lay ecclesial minister and has been a pastoral associate, youth minister and parish Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults director.

**Father Daniel Kirk**, parochial vicar in St. Benedict Parish, Holmdel, has served as a chaplain for Catholic schools and organizations and as assistant vocations director for Monmouth County. He will become the administrator of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Cinnaminson, in July.

**Deborah Gallucci** of St. Luke Parish, Toms River, is a certified public accountant who has served St. William the Abbot Parish, Howell, as a member of the finance council, president of the parish council and a catechist to second, third and fourth grade students. She is also a member of the development board of the Upper Room Spiritual Center, Neptune.

For a more detailed look at each of these planning commissioners, including their ministerial or professional backgrounds and their vision for the future of the Diocese, go to [dioceseoftrenton.org/faithinourfuture](http://dioceseoftrenton.org/faithinourfuture) and click on **GENERAL INFO**.