

## INTERIM PASTORAL PLAN

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### I. PRAYER AND FAITH SHARING OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE PARISHES IN THE GROUPING

#### *Action Steps:*

1. Identify the Prayer and Faith Sharing Opportunities of all parishes from the Parish Overview, the bulletins and other parish sources. Examples include small faith sharing groups, Bible study to reflect on the weekly readings, praying the rosary, Holy Hour, Lectio Divina, Eucharistic Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet, etc.
2. Publicize each opportunity in all bulletins and on the parish websites.
3. Where there is overlap, encourage the rotation of the prayer and faith sharing opportunities among the parishes.
4. Discuss with the prayer leaders what shared opportunities might be created.
5. Create new shared opportunities.

### II. COMMUNICATION AMONG THE PARISHES IN THE GROUPING:

#### A. PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE PARISHES

#### *Action Steps:*

1. Keep parishioners informed of all changes and initiatives through the vehicles of communication already available in the parishes.
2. The same message should be communicated to all parishes.
3. Explore new ideas around communication. Inquire how the diocesan Department for Communications can provide assistance, such as building a digital media presence.
4. Identify a regular place in the bulletins where the ministries and events of the other parishes can be publicized until a common bulletin is created. Communicate the same information on the parish websites and in parish newsletters.
5. Consider the importance of personal contact. All council members should be ready to reach out to parishioners within the grouping who may have questions or are uncertain about how the changes in the grouping may affect them.

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### B. LISTENING TO THE PARISH

#### *Action Steps:*

1. Hold at least one assembly at each parish in the grouping (two is preferable – one at the beginning of the Year 1 and one after the Parish Survey results are available), with the same information and process.
  - a. Present Data: sacramental information of all parishes, October Count, ministries, results of the Parish Survey, etc.
  - b. Offer an opportunity for small group sharing.
2. Conduct Focus Groups around a particular area of parish life or the strengths/weaknesses and hopes/opportunities for the grouping.
  - Invite parishioners to participate in Appreciative Inquiry interviews that reflect on questions related to their experience of parish life. Sample questions include: What is your most life giving experience in your parish? What do you value most in your parish?
3. Distribute the Parish Survey or Disciple Maker Index (DMI) to all parishioners within a grouping. It may be helpful to launch the survey or DMI at the first assembly. Analyze and publish the results. Present the results at a second assembly and allow time for discussion around the results.
  - ***See the Parish Survey Sample and information about the Disciple Maker Index in the Framing the Mission and Vision TAB of the Blueprint.***

### III. HOSPITALITY AMONG THE PARISHES IN THE GROUPING

#### *Action Steps:*

1. Review and discuss the Hospitality Blueprint with the Clergy Team and staff.
  - ***See the Hospitality TAB of the Blueprint.***
2. Implement the Action Steps as outlined in the Hospitality Blueprint.

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### IV. SHARING OF MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE PARISHES IN THE GROUPING

#### *Action Steps:*

1. Identify common ministries and organizations of all parishes from the Parish Overview. In addition, interview staff about existing cooperative ministries with neighboring parishes, whether within or outside of the grouping. Examples include common food pantries and shared Thanksgiving outreach through other Christian churches in the area.
2. Prepare a list and publish a description of a different ministry or organization in each of the bulletins or feature it on the websites on a regular basis.
3. Prioritize the ministries or organizations that show the greatest potential for working together.
  - a. Select one or two ministries or organizations (based on the number of council members in the Key Area).
  - b. Plan opportunities for the members of the ministries or organizations to meet each other and share the stories of their work.
  - c. Identify ways that members of organizations or ministries might collaborate.