

SUMMARY OF HOLY SPIRIT, SAINT JOSEPH AND SAINT RAPHAEL CLUSTER PLAN

Last month, Bishop Lennon announced his decisions regarding the Cluster Planning of the diocese. The plan submitted by our Cluster Group of Holy Spirit, Saint Joseph, and Saint Raphael Parishes was affirmed by the Bishop.

Our Cluster Planning and Coordination Team met over a period of 18 months to develop a plan to address the directives put forward by Bishop Lennon in May, 2007. The Bishop challenged our Cluster to develop a plan that would 1) continue to explore collaborative possibilities to strengthen pastoral care in an equitable manner for the parishes and two schools, 2) strengthen evangelization and the social and community services that serve the surrounding neighborhoods, 3) engage all of our faithful in regularly attending and participating in the Sunday Eucharistic liturgy and 4) continue to support Church in the City partnerships through Cluster-Cluster cooperation. The plan submitted by the Cluster identified five initiatives---Evangelization, Education, Outreach, Sanctification, and Community Building---and proposed specific implementation steps for each. We describe these initiatives and the planned actions to carry each of them forward as follows:

Evangelization – How do we touch the two-thirds of the parish populations who are not coming to Mass to move them to return to Mass and the practice of the Faith? The key goal is to determine and take those actions best suited to encourage regular Mass attendance and increased participation in the parishes.

The Cluster Plan looks to implement the following steps in the first two years:

- *Expand the existing “Catholics Coming Home” program*
- *Cluster RCIA collaboration and planning including initiating a “Confirmation for Adults” program*
- *Share youth ministry meetings and resources*
- *Presentations on being a stewardship parish*
- *Link parish websites*

The Cluster Plan looks to implement the following steps in the three to five year range:

- *Expand stewardship programs*
- *Develop leadership workshops for the ministries*
- *Determine “best practices” among parishes*

Education – How do we continue to improve education provided by the parishes, including adult education, PSR and the day schools? The key goal is to develop collaboration among people leading education activities and to provide enhanced programs on a more efficient basis.

The Cluster Plan looks to implement the following steps in the first two years:

- *Cluster-wide Bible study of St Paul*
- *Inter-Cluster vocations group*
- *Mutual support of the day schools*

The Cluster Plan looks to implement the following steps in the three to five year range:

- *Continue day schools sharing of resources*
- *Evaluation of the PSR programs*
- *Cooperation of the sports programs*
- *Coordination of Vacation Bible School*
- *Additional adult formation classes*

Outreach – How do we maintain and expand ministries responding to social, economic and other special needs? The key goal is to find more support for existing activities and to develop new opportunities among the parishes.

The Cluster Plan looks to implement the following steps in the first two years:

- *Initiate a Cluster bereavement program on holiday anxieties*
- *Create a Cluster community service project list*
- *Presentation on being more professional in our care of the homebound*

The Cluster Plan looks to implement the following steps in the three to five year range:

- *Expand the "Church in the City" partnership*
- *Increase support of St Joseph Homeless Shelter*
- *Create new ministries as the Cluster determines*
- *Initiate summer mission trips*

Sanctification – How do we maintain and enhance spiritual growth in the Cluster parishes? The key goal is to communicate to members of the three parishes what is available and develop a plan to expand these areas.

The Cluster Plan looks to implement the following steps in the first two years:

- *Publish Mass schedules of Cluster in bulletins*
- *Combined effort for Divine Mercy Sunday*
- *Enhance the "Ministry to Married" and those to be married (pre Cana)*
- *Periodic pulpit exchange by the Cluster clergy*
- *Continuation of combined penance services for Advent & Lent*
- *Clergy assistance within the Cluster for First Reconciliation*

The Cluster Plan looks to implement the following steps in the three to five year range:

- *Initiate a speaker series*
- *Initiate retreats for heads of ministries*
- *Foster and promote individual parish and Cluster prayer groups*
- *Possible consolidation of Baptism classes*
- *Funeral coverage by Cluster clergy*

Community Building – How do we expand and deepen the experience of community and investment of people? The key goal is to develop new opportunities to foster community within and across our Cluster.

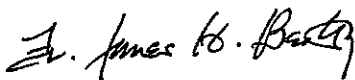
The Cluster Plan looks to implement the following steps in the first two years:

- *Assign a person to be the Cluster Community Life Coordinator for each parish*
- *Cluster the Moms Group*
- *Collaborate Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselors*

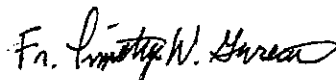
The Cluster Plan looks to implement the following steps in the three to five year range:

- *Actively combine and promote social, senior and youth groups activities*

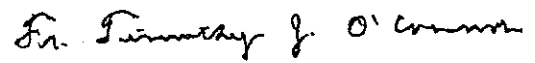
We believe that our plan will create positive experiences for our parishes and that the mission of the Church will be strengthened in our Cluster. We look forward to discussing our plan in town meetings and to implementing the various programs with the help of all of our communities. Together our Cluster will continue to be the heart and soul of our Catholic identity in this area. Pray that the Holy Spirit continues to shine through us in the years to come.



Fr James Beatty



Fr Timothy Gareau



Fr Timothy O'Connor