

## Phase 2: Local Area Plan Report Form

**To be completed by the Local Planning Area Facilitators.**

E-mail completed report to the Office of Pastoral Planning: [eneu@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:eneu@richmonddiocese.org) by **May 31, 2008**.

A copy of this form can be downloaded from the Diocesan website

[www.richmonddiocese.org/PlanningGuidelines.pdf](http://www.richmonddiocese.org/PlanningGuidelines.pdf)

1. Local Planning Area: 16
2. Name of person completing this report: Dick Surrusco  
Phone # and e-mail address: 540-989-5313
3. Describe staffing allocation changes to accommodate the reduction or increase of active priests for your local planning area in the next 5 years. Include the names of parishes that will be clustered and the model selected (reference a model included under "Cluster Models" page 29 or describe a model that your Local Planning Committee developed).

### Cluster 1 – Fr. Gaudy Pugat

St. Mary, Richlands

St. Theresa, Tazewell

St. Elizabeth, Pocahontas

St. Joseph's Mission, Grundy

Unanimous support for **Model V** – single parish model with individual campuses; new parish would have a new name, with the individual campuses [churches] maintaining their names.

- Full-time paid administrator/coordinator to direct the non-liturgical [pastoral and temporal] needs, including parish administration, finances, facilities, faith formation, **working with pastor to schedule priests for Mass/use of SCAP**, supervising full-time/part-time professional ministry staff as well as coordinating volunteers and support staff. Responsible for relations with the wider community. **Responsible for working with LPA pastoral care coordinator.**
- Volunteer chairs at each campus, representing their campus at the Pastoral Council and Finance Council meetings. This may require part-time support staff at each campus.
- Recommend hiring a full-time, paid Pastoral Care Coordinator for LPA 16; this person could coordinate hospital/homebound/nursing visitation, prison and campus ministries, non-liturgical Sacramental needs [anointing of the sick, etc.] for all of LPA 16, working with the pastor, parish administrator, or cluster coordinator, allocating the resources of the entire planning area to meet these needs.
- **Note: If there is indeed a 5<sup>th</sup> priest assigned to LPA 16, he could serve in this role as pastoral care coordinator for LPA 16, in addition to serving in rotation with the other clergy for Mass, rather than be assigned to a particular cluster.**

### Cluster 2 – Fr. Tim Drake

St. Anthony, Norton

Holy Spirit, Jonesville

Sacred Heart, Big Stone Gap

St. Joseph, Clintwood

Appears to be support for **Model III** – separate parishes with one pastor. Each parish would maintain separate leadership structure and finances. There would be a **Coordinating Council** with representatives from each of the individual parishes.

- Propose hiring (2) **part-time cluster coordinators**. Due to the geographical configuration of the cluster, each coordinator would remain on-site for the outlying parishes, facilitating the coordination of cluster activities and working with the coordinating council.
- Propose hiring as administrative assistant for the pastor: this individual could maintain an “office presence” as first contact for cluster inquiries, help coordinate the pastor’s schedule, etc.
- *If a pastoral care coordinator is not hired for LPA 16, an additional staffing need would be a pastoral care coordinator for the cluster, responsible for visitation of the sick, RCIA and Christian Formation, hospital and prison ministries.*

Cluster 3 – Fr. Mike Herbert

St. Mary, Coeburn

St. Therese, St. Paul

Good Shepherd, Lebanon

***Will look at the possibility of adding a 4<sup>th</sup> parish.***

Of those who attended the individual parish meetings, Fr. Herbert reported that there was unanimous approval of **Model III** – separate parishes with one pastor. In addition, there apparently was unanimous agreement NOT to have a cluster coordinator:

- While there is no desire to have a full-time cluster coordinator, they are open to the possibility of a part-time position for religious education and ministry formation (the job description for the position formerly staffed by two lay women already on file at the diocese).
- **Most important** – an administrative assistant for the pastor. Office would be staffed at set times, the pastor’s schedule would be done, as well as addressing issues of opening mail, correspondence, office telephone, etc.
- While there would be a coordinating council, finances would be managed by the individual parishes.
- Fr. Herbert expressed concern about a four parish cluster, especially if there is a reduction in the current number of priests from 4 to 3. However, he is open to looking at a four-parish cluster; specifically, ***if St. Patrick, Dungannon clusters with St. Anne, Bristol, he would take St. Bernard, Gate City; or if St. Bernard were to go with St. Anne [their assumption], then he would assume St. Patrick.***

St. Patrick, Dungannon – wish to join an existing cluster

St. Bernard, Gate City – first a representative present: open to join cluster

4. Describe other changes that are needed to support the staffing changes proposed.

N/A

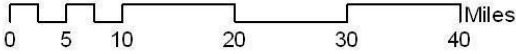
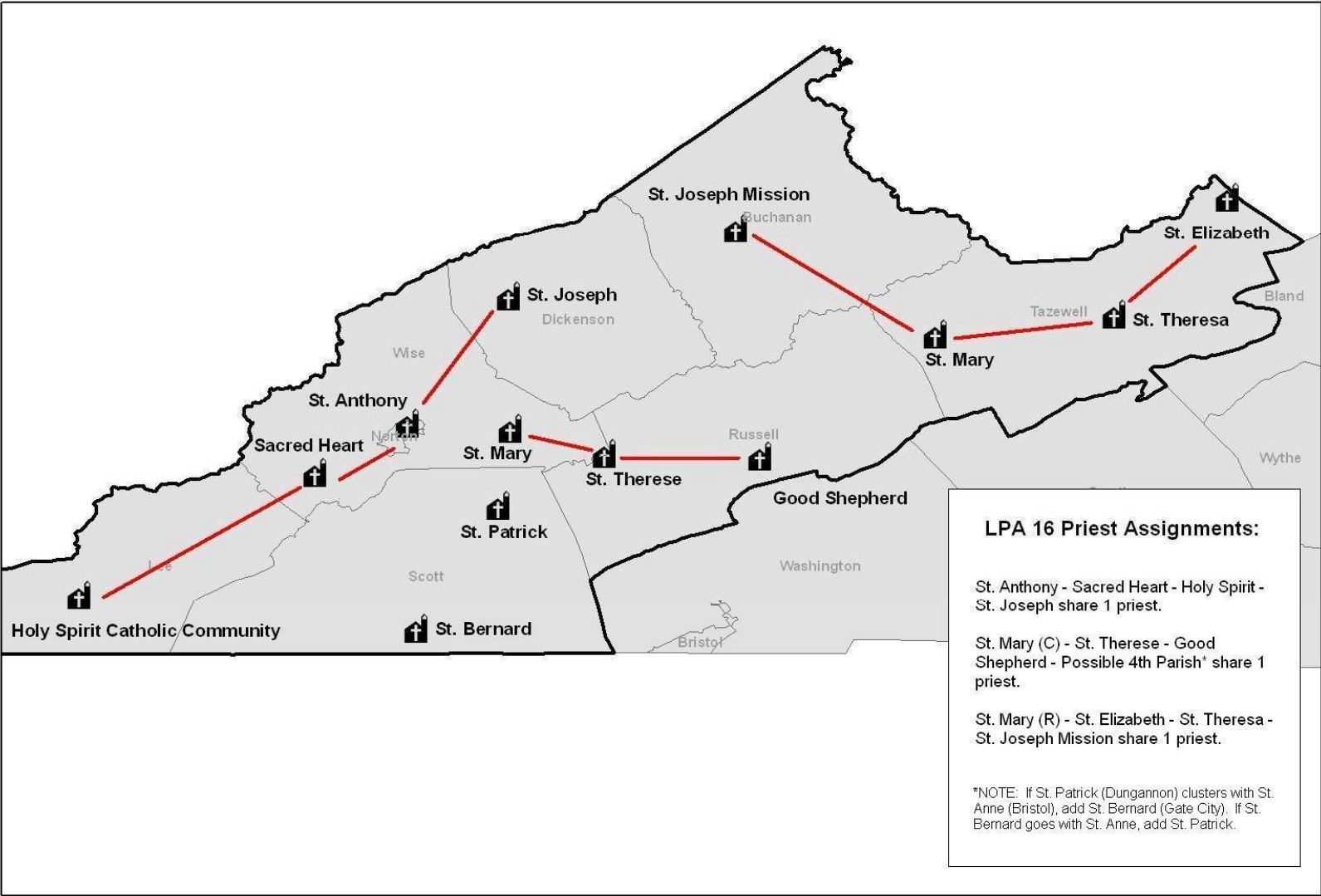
5. Describe other recommendations that will help parishes in your Local Planning Area provide better services and ministries through inter-parish collaboration.
  - a. There will be a need for a new “corporate” model to address the merging of individual parishes into one single parish.
  - b. Attention needs to be paid to transportation issues in this planning area, where access can be difficult, especially in inclement weather.
  - c. **It is strongly recommended that seminarians be assigned to this planning area for their apostolic year, rather than for a few weeks at a time. They will become more familiar with the communities and the area, and hopefully would wish to return to minister here.**
  - d. Teleconferencing is critical for this planning area – not only to utilize resources from the diocese, but also to enhance inter-parish collaboration in key issues of lay leadership formation, liturgical prep, Christian Formation, etc. Financial support should be provided for this initiative.
  - e. It is recommended that those spearheading the Leadership Formation Program for the diocese (Rick, Catherine) come and address individual churches here, in the hopes of sparking interest in lay leadership and the diaconate. Ideally, if someone who is currently involved in the coursework could come and speak, we could begin to increase participation among our laity.
  
6. If your Local Planning Committee did not reach consensus on these recommendations, please describe how closer your group is to consensus and explain the minority position and/or points of disagreement.

Representatives are in consensus that new ways of enhancing the currently existing inter-parish collaboration need to be explored in order to best accomplish this mission. New models of how we are “Church” will emphasize maintaining a Catholic presence, facilitating the participation of the laity, and supporting available priests.

7. Please include any other information that will assist the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Commission in evaluating your Local Plan (i.e. support by parish leadership, special challenges, etc.).

N/A

# Map Showing Inter-Parish Collaboration for LPA 16



Map created by: Office of Pastoral Planning, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, 2008

