

## 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: 8
2. Name of person completing this report: Patty Huffman  
Phone # and e-mail address: 540-434-1179, palhuffman@yahoo.com
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).

LPA 8 divided into two geographical cluster: The Northern Group and the Southern Group. There are currently 2 priests, 1 Campus Minister, 1 Pastoral Coordinator, 3 deacons, and 1 retired priest serving these 7 faith communities. Each cluster has developed a plan that does not require *additional* staff. The Southern cluster has prepared a plan that does not include the services of the retired priest they currently have, necessitating Mass schedule changes and SCAP. The Northern Cluster has requested *as an option* the use of a retired priest for two weekends in that cluster; they have two other options that would not need the services of a retired priest.

The Northern Group consists of the parishes: The pastor would be in residence at Sts. Peter and Paul

- Sts. Peter and Paul (Palmyra)
- St. Joseph/Katherine Drexel (Columbia)
- Church of the Nativity (Buckingham)

The Southern Group consists of the parishes: The pastor would be in residence at St. Theresa

- St. Theresa (Farmville) and the Campus Ministries of Hampden-Sydney and Longwood Colleges
- Immaculate Heart of Mary (Blackstone)
- St. John the Baptist (Crewe)
- Sacred Heart (Meherrin)

**The Northern Cluster** has developed **three options** to send to the Pastoral Planning Commission.

Plan A – Continue the current Mass schedule at Sts. P&P and St. Joseph; use a retired priest for two weekends in Nativity.

Plan B – Continue the current Mass schedule at Sts. P&P and St. Joseph, move the Sunday celebration to different day of the week for Nativity.

Plan C – Continue the current Mass schedule at Sts. P&P and St. Joseph, close Nativity as a parish and turn it into a retreat center to be used by all three faith communities.

The Northern Cluster has a list of their Mass times using all three plans above **The preference of the Northern Cluster is for Plan A.**

The schedule of Masses for the Northern Cluster leaves St. Joseph times always at 9 on Sunday and varies the schedule of the presider depending on availability of retired priest. Their proposed Mass schedule follows at the end of this report.

**The Southern Cluster** will be basically following Model II, using both Pastoral Coordinator for the three smaller parishes, and pastor for the larger parish in their coordinating council work.

The parish at Crewe (St. John the Baptist) will be closed and sold. We recommend closing this parish as soon as possible. This would lighten the load on a potential retired priest; lessen the financial burden on the other parishes in the cluster. Additionally, the church in Blackstone (Immaculate Heart of Mary) is close by. Money from the sale of the property at Crewe will come back to the churches in the Southern Cluster. A coordinating council from the three remaining parishes will determine how that money can best serve the needs of the community.

Based on our assessment, no changes in resources are necessary. One active priest is necessary for the Southern Cluster, as well as a pastoral coordinator for the two mission parishes (Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart of Mary). The Southern Cluster will basically follow Model II.

A pastor will be needed for the parishes of St. Theresa, Sacred Heart, and Immaculate Heart of Mary. The pastor will be located at St. Theresa, and a pastoral coordinator is necessary at the latter two parishes.

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

#### **Northern Cluster:**

- A pastoral coordinator for IHM and SH will continue to be necessary
- Deacons available for larger geographical area (i.e. three currently in Farmville)
- Potential of adding support staff in the smaller parishes (as cluster personnel, not individual parish, particularly in mission parish staffing)
- The request for a retired priest for two weekends per month in the Northern Cluster
- The potential of changing the day of the Sunday Celebration of Mass to a weekday
- Borrowing the services of a deacon for the Northern cluster on occasion

#### **Southern Cluster:**

Changes in weekend Mass times are necessary. The following are the proposed Mass times for the Southern Cluster.

St. Theresa: 5:30 PM (Sat. evening), 11:00 AM (Sunday)

Immaculate Heart of Mary: 8:30 AM (Sunday)

Sacred Heart: 4:00 PM (Sunday)

In the event that St. Theresa's continues to grow and a third Mass on a weekend is necessary, the following schedule is proposed for the second cluster:

St. Theresa: 5:30 PM (Sat. evening), 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM (Sunday)

Immaculate Heart of Mary: 8:30 AM\* (Sunday)

Sacred Heart: 8:30 AM\* (Sunday)

\*Masses and Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest alternate.

5. Describe other recommendations that will help parishes in your Local Planning Area provide better services and ministries through inter-parish collaboration.

The Northern Cluster definitely wants to keep the property of Nativity within their cluster to be used for other purposes in the event that the parish cannot obtain the services of a retired priest. They would use the parish for mission and ministry of the whole area, and potentially as a retreat center to enhance and support Catholic presence in the area. Being a mission parish, they want to continue to develop viable Catholic presence within the parish and the broader community. The passion of the people is evidenced in their care for the church and its ministries.

The Southern Cluster recommends the immediate closing of St. John the Baptist in Crewe. It is already a financial burden; they affirm that closing and merging with Blackstone would help both parishes financially.

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.

There was an original resistance to the idea of closing Crewe. After dialogue and discussion of possibilities that would benefit the whole church, agreement was reached to close Crewe if the resources obtained from the sale of the properties could remain in the Blackstone community (which would be the new home of current Crewe parishioners).

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.).

- The special challenges of the two clusters are simply having 6 viable faith communities served by only **two** priests for Sunday liturgy.
- The presence of a pastoral coordinator in the Southern Cluster is deemed absolutely necessary, and the services of a retired priest would be welcomed in either area.
- The Northern Cluster would like to see the presence of deacons assigned to assist in the Buckingham parish so that SCAP could be used there when priests are unavailable.
- Because many of the parishes are mission parishes the hope would be that additional support staff might be a possibility in the future to serve these very vibrant faith communities.
- Potential growth in the Southern Cluster is real – and the addition of an additional Mass in the larger parish with only one priest will be a challenge in the future.

- The presence of two Campus Ministries without a special Mass designated for them will be a challenge.

**The schedule of Mass Times for the Northern Cluster is:**

	Day/time	Location	Presider
1 <sup>st</sup> Week of the Month	Sat 5pm	Sts. Peter & Paul	Pastor
	Sun 9am	St. Joseph's	Pastor
	Sun 11am	Sts. Peter & Paul	Pastor
	Sun 4pm	Nativity	Pastor
2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of the Month	Sat 5pm	Sts. Peter & Paul	Retired Priest
	Sun 7am	Sts. Peter & Paul	Pastor
	Sun 9am	St. Joseph's	Retired Priest
	Sun 11am	Sts. Peter & Paul	Pastor
	Sun 4pm	Nativity	Pastor
3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of the Month	Sat 5 pm	Sts. Peter & Paul	Pastor
	Sun 7am	Sts. Peter & Paul	Pastor
	Sun 9am	St. Joseph's	Pastor
	Sun 11am	Sts. Peter & Paul	Retired Priest
	Sun 4pm	Nativity	Retired Priest
4 <sup>th</sup> Week of the Month	Sat 5pm	Sts. Peter & Paul	Pastor
	Sun 7am	Sts. Peter & Paul	Pastor
	Sun 9am	St. Joseph's	Pastor
	Sun 11am	Sts. Peter & Paul	Pastor
	Sun 4pm	Nativity	Deacon or Lay Presider

5<sup>th</sup> Weekend of the Month – on a case-by-case basis. If no retired priest is available, Nativity Mass would move to weekday. If that is not possible, change use of Nativity facility to retreat and social ministry center.

Model III – as in Manual, p. 30; develop a co-coordinating council.

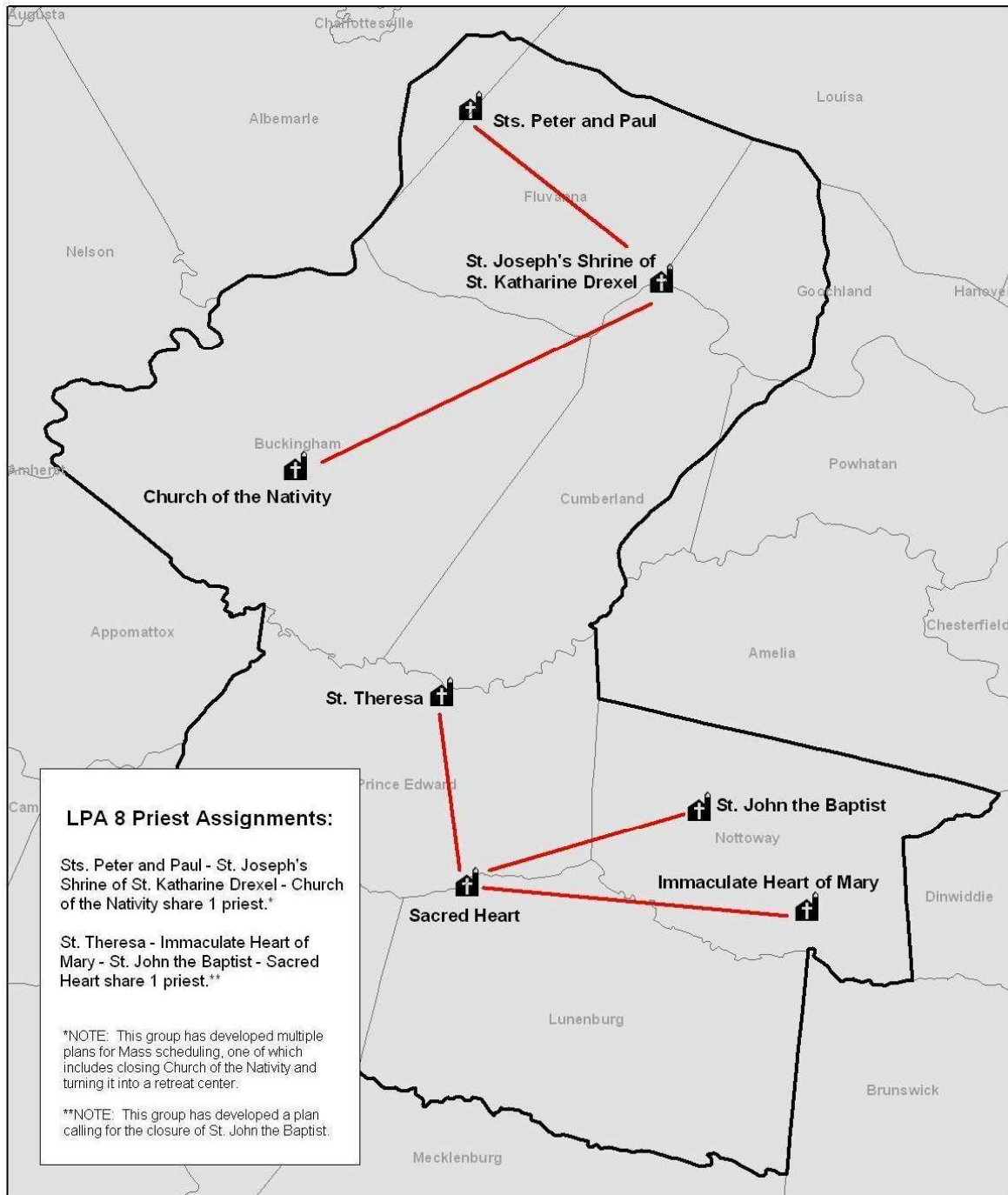
Staff needed: Hire staff for cluster (not individual parishes).

Need Deacons

Training: apply for layperson training through “mission status” of Nativity. Apply for funds to turn Nativity into a retreat/social ministry center regardless of Mass availability. Do not recommend closing Nativity.

The Northern Cluster will use the current structure for their parish councils, i.e. each parish will have its own parish council. The pastor will be part of all three councils. The parishes are planning to consider the idea of a cluster council Model II); but also want to continue with their current structures of parish and finance councils now.

# Map Showing Inter-Parish Collaboration for LPA 8



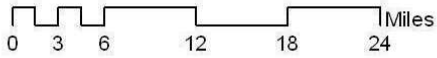
**LPA 8 Priest Assignments:**

Sts. Peter and Paul - St. Joseph's Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel - Church of the Nativity share 1 priest.\*

St. Theresa - Immaculate Heart of Mary - St. John the Baptist - Sacred Heart share 1 priest.\*\*

\*NOTE: This group has developed multiple plans for Mass scheduling, one of which includes closing Church of the Nativity and turning it into a retreat center.

\*\*NOTE: This group has developed a plan calling for the closure of St. John the Baptist.



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

