

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 by **May 31, 2008**.

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

www.richmonddiocese.org/PlanningGuidelines.pdf

1. Local Planning Area: 9
2. Name of person completing this report: Cathy Woodson
Phone # and e-mail address: 804-261-7497, cwood329@aol.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).

Using the planning assumptions for priest projections, LPA 9 committee recommends the following:

Establish a Coordinating Council for LPA 9

Parish Assignments would be:

St. Ann remains a separate parish

St. Joseph & St. James cluster

Sacred Heart & St. John cluster

St. Peter, St. Richard, & Good Shepherd cluster

This conforms to Model I; the parishes will decide on shared resources and planning done through cooperation of pastors and representatives on the Coordinating Council with the support of parish leadership. Pastors, Pastoral Councils, and Finance Councils should work out staffing for models.

As noted in the attached parish reports, St. James and St. Joseph concur with the above clusters. Both parishes are concerned that their cluster includes two churches facing similar significant problems: inner city parishes [with inherent inner-city problems], aging facilities with high maintenance costs, an aging population of parishioners, and few youth to revitalize the parishes. They feel it is important that the "area" churches, including the other clusters, collaborate on programs that will enhance and assist the programs that are offered within the entire area, including youth ministry.

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

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

- Recognize the Ft. Lee expansion will affect the southeast churches, as over 5,000 families will be moving to this area over the next 5 years
 - Will need the diocese to provide guidance on a coordinating council, define the functions of the council, how to establish the council, and the lessons learned from other dioceses
 - Allow deacons to receive training to become Pastoral Coordinators
 - Assign more deacons to assist in all parishes and use deacons in the parishes
 - Offer international priests a 6-year term/contract with a 2-year probation period in order to create stability and meet the needs of this diocese and the priest's home diocese
 - Offer training opportunities for Pastoral Coordinators
 - Develop a process to include the parish in a decision-making process for Pastoral Coordinator assignment to a parish rather than being directly assigned by the diocese
 - Diocesan support would benefit parishes by simplifying the diocesan website; add an index to point to leadership development opportunities, workshops, etc.
 - The Pastoral Planning Commission should review the assignment of St. Richard and St. Peter to LPA 9; both parishes recommend reassignment with the South Hill parishes, which are geographically closer and better serving the needs of the parishes
 - Develop an area newsletter to be distributed within the clusters
 - Need priests assigned to be pastors
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.

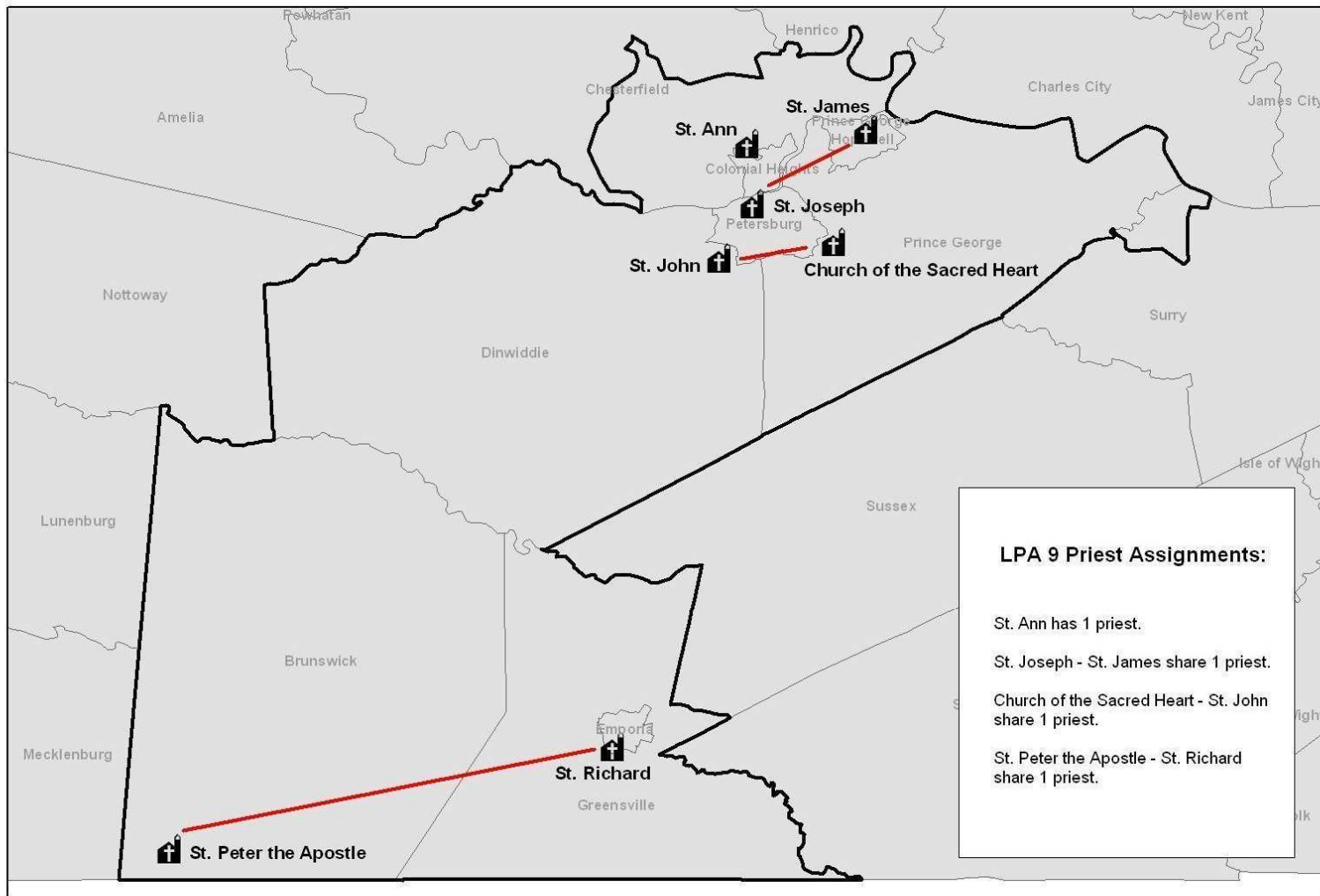
The LPA 9 committee reached consensus on the recommendations listed in #5.

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.).

Each parish has written a report that covers special challenges facing the parishes in this planning area. A copy of each parish report is attached to this report.

All parishes reported parishioner concerns about priest recruitment. Many parishioners indicated that consideration should be given to recruiting married priests, ministers from other denominations, and female deacons.

Map Showing Inter-Parish Collaboration for LPA 9



0 4 8 16 24 32 Miles

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

