CONNECTED IN THE SPIRIT
PASTORAL PLANNING FOR THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

COHORT RESPONSE FORM TO PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION

COHORT: PARISH, CITY (Preliminary Recommendation-from the Archdiocesan Planning Commission)
It is recommended that the following parishes:

COHORT # C1

PARISHES

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception	Rushville
St. Anne	New Castle
St. Rose of Lima	Knightstown
St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Cambridge City

- **Model Two: Merged Parishes** between St. Anne and St. Rose of Lima, utilizing the two worship sites as needed.

- **Model One: Linked Parishes** between St. Anne/Rose with St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

- **Model Three: Partnership Parishes** between St. Anne/Rose, St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

We further recommend that as a Cohort you:

1. Develop a plan to share appropriate positions that can be utilized across parishes while consolidating administrative responsibilities, such as those mentioned in the Cohort Suggestion Form: business manager, DRE and youth minister. Thereafter, consider further collaboration with other cohorts that are geographically close.

2. Evaluate Mass times at all parishes, with attention to the geographic distance and travel time required for pastors/parishioners.

3. Plan and implement a common youth ministry program with emphasis to grow involvement at all sites.

4. Plan and implement a shared formation program for engaged couples with emphasis to grow involvement at all sites.

5. Collaborate with archdiocesan and parish leadership to develop a strong Catholic formation program for lay catechists.

6. Continue to place emphasis on the value of ordained presence to the school community at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

7. Develop and implement a communications plan between and among parishes that allows for the promotion of and engagement in various ministries (e.g., school, youth ministry, young adult, etc.) and vocation awareness.

8. Consider further outreach programs that engage fallen away Catholics and the unchurched, while addressing social justice issues.

RATIONALE (Archdiocesan Planning Commission's Rationale for their Preliminary Recommendation)

1. Strengthening of finances

2. Consolidation of administrative responsibilities

3. Gain a priest presence at the parish

4. Reduction in meeting requirements for Parish/Finance Councils

5. Similar communities will make a merger easier

6. New ideas from each of the parishes involved can be shared.

7. Staff can be shared for the merged parishes.

We also make these recommendations based on your own study and concepts found throughout your submitted information:
1. Your commitment to sustain and grow a strong Catholic presence in the Connersville deanery.
2. The struggle to attain viable candidates for part-time positions in youth ministry and religious education.
3. Request for training support for the DRE, PLC and religious educators from the archdiocese.
4. Stable or decreasing parish registrations.
5. Stable or decreasing enrollment in elementary and adolescent catechesis (with the exception of a slight increase in adolescent catechesis at St. Rose of Lima).
6. Overall stable financial status of all four parishes with no incurred debt or diocesan aid (with the exception of St. Rose's income/net income and fluctuating cash reserves at St. Elizabeth).
7. The fact that you recognize the need to communicate more effectively with parents and other parishioners about available ministries.

COHORT CORE TEAM RESPONSE

THE WHAT
Our response to the Preliminary Recommendation is . . .

THE WHY
Our reasons for this response are . . .

COHORT CORE TEAM MEMBERS (PLEASE INCLUDE SIGNATURES)

DATE:

Date due: September 14, 2015
Please mail, email or fax the original to:
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