

**DIOCESE OF TRENTON
FAITH IN OUR FUTURE
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS**

COUNTY: BURLINGTON

COHORT 3

PARISHES

St. Joan of Arc
St. Isaac Jogues
St. John Neumann
St. Mary of the Lakes
Holy Eucharist

CITIES

Marlton
Marlton
Mt. Laurel
Medford
Tabernacle

SCHOOLS

St. Joan of Arc
St. Mary of the Lakes

OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Virtua Marlton Hospital

Appreciation

We wish to thank you for the prayer, reflection and work which you have put into *Faith in Our Future* to date. We appreciate the time and effort you have given to evaluating your parishes and your cohort based on the goals and criteria established by Bishop O'Connell and for making a Cohort Suggestions for your future.

Commendations

We commend you for your:

- Spirit of cooperation between parishes in both collaboration and linkage.
- Desire to form joint ministries.
- Willingness to consider sharing priests for some ministries (penance services, hospital ministry).
- Willingness to share some staff, resources, and expertise.

Preliminary Recommendations

After reflecting on Bishop O'Connell's goals and criteria for *Faith in Our Future*, your Cohort Evaluation, your Parish Evaluations, your Data Verification Forms and Parish Summary Forms, we support your suggestions and make the following preliminary recommendations:

- **Model Two: Linked Parishes** between St. Isaac Jogues and St. John Neumann
- **Model One: Collaborative Parishes** among all five parishes in the cohort

We ask you to focus on the following areas which you noted on your suggestion form:

1. Develop an electronic medium (cohort extranet) to share information (schedules, directories, marketing information).
2. Develop lay ministry leadership to help recruiting, training, sharing of best practices.
3. Work on more youth involvement in ministries.

We further recommend that as a cohort you:

1. Consider eventual unlinking of St. Isaac Jogues and St. John Neumann.
2. Consider collaboration with the established Hispanic ministry in Mt. Holly.
3. Explore more flexibility in RE program concerning where the family is registered and consider sharing resources.
4. Target evangelization and marketing strategies.
5. Consider sharing more ministries, especially with St. John Neumann.
6. Consider combining into one (or two) collaborative Youth/Young Adult Ministry initiatives with a shared Youth Minister.
7. Explore marketing strategies for the two schools as well as the RE programs.

Rationale

We make these preliminary recommendations based on your own study and data and the following:

1. Given the data concerning Mass attendance, registered families, financial condition and demographics, etc. St. John Neumann could continue as a vibrant parish on its own.
2. Though no individual parish has a high percentage of Hispanic parishioners, overall the cohort is home to 4,287 Hispanics, a rather large number.
3. Parish recognition of family scheduling complexity.
4. The success of St. Mary of the Lakes Youth Ministry is an area to build upon since this is a critical area.
5. The cohort recognizes that Catholic education of the youth is a key to the vitality and future of the Church.
6. We believe our preliminary recommendations for models and ministries will help Cohort 3 achieve the 5 goals approved by Bishop O'Connell for *Faith in Our Future*.