

# Parish Consultation Session

## INFORMATION PACKET

### Mary, Mother of Hope (V4D1)

Thank you for participating in this parish consultation session!  
This packet is for you to take home with you at the end of the session.

For more information, please visit:

**[onmissionchurcalive.org](http://onmissionchurcalive.org)**

# What is *On Mission for The Church Alive!*

*On Mission for The Church Alive!* is a diocesan-wide planning initiative in which Bishop Zubik invites all Catholics to envision how our parishes, schools, and ministries can best respond to the changes in our communities so that they can become vital centers of worship and service and strengthen people's relationship with the Lord.

It's about being *in relationship*

- with Jesus: our prayer and worship
- with the Church: our growth as disciples
- with each other: our service and outreach in the world

It's not just "*coming to*," it's "*going out*"

- We come to Church to be nourished, focused, supported and renewed
- We come to Church to be sent out
- Like the generations of immigrants that founded our communities 100 years ago, we are always on mission to create a place where we welcome, serve and love as Jesus does

## Core Values for On Mission:

- **COLLABORATION & CONSULTATION:** work closely together out of love for the Church
- **COURAGE:** respond more willingly to the presence of the Holy Spirit
- **COMPASSION:** reach out more generously to those in need

# Timeline for *On Mission for The Church Alive!*

| Date                                 | Milestone  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| April 2015 – April 2016              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thousands of parishioners gathered in intentional prayer at their parishes.</li> <li>Consultation with all of the priests, deacons, and more than 1,000 lay leaders to shape the process.</li> <li>On Mission Commission, an advisory body of parishioners nominated from across the Diocese, convened to advise Bishop Zubik.</li> </ul> |
| May 2015 – July 2016                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 80+ members of the Commission and its subcommittees have been engaged in extensive study and the creation of DRAFT models for parishes and schools.</li> </ul>  |
| February 2016                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastors recruit Parish Team Leaders to serve on On Mission Team.</li> </ul>   |
| April-May 2016                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Team Leaders participate in training.</li> </ul>   |
| May-June 2016                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastors receive District Snapshot and share with Parish Team Leaders.</li> </ul>  |
| August 2016                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clergy receive DRAFT models.</li> </ul>   |
| September 26, 2016 - October 6, 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastors and Parish Team Leaders participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> District Level Consultations.</li> </ul>  |
| October 10, 2016 - December 1, 2016  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastors and Parish Team Leaders host 2 parish consultations to share models and gather feedback.</li> </ul>   |
| February 2017 - March 2017           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastors and Parish Team Leaders participate in Cluster Level Consultations.</li> </ul>  |
| April 2017 -May 2017                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastors and Parish Team Leaders participate in 2nd District Level Consultations.</li> </ul>   |
| June 2017 - December 2017            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Mission Commission refines models based on feedback and submits recommendations to Bishop Zubik.</li> </ul>  |
| Early 2018                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bishop Zubik announces his decisions and timelines for implementation.</li> </ul>   |

# What is a DRAFT Model?

A “**model**” is a description of how a group of parishes could potentially look in the future with respect to:

- ministerial strategies including evangelization, stewardship, and worship
- parish structures including church buildings, Mass times, and care for all hospitals, prisons, and nursing facilities within the community
- leadership structures, including clergy and lay staffing

## Creation of DRAFT Models

The primary sources of information used to develop potential models were:

- MissionInsite - MissionInsite data is built from federal census block data for the unique territory of the parish boundaries and so there are no readily available comparables from other data sources. Maps of parish territories are available at the bottom of each parish homepage on the Diocesan website. Maps of Districts can also be found at the bottom of the home page for each Vicariate.
- 5 years of Parish-Reported Sacramental Information and Financial Information for each Parish
- The 2015 Priest Projection Summary
- The 2015 Institutional Ministry Database (e.g. Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Prisons)
- Qualitative Perspective from the Regional Vicar
- Qualitative Building Assessment from the Diocesan Facilities Office
- Feedback from surveys and focus groups of priests, deacons and lay leaders

## Keep in Mind

- **No decisions have been made.** Consultation with the clergy and faithful will go through April of 2017 and Bishop Zubik will not be making any decisions until the first quarter of 2018.
- These proposals were developed using the best information available at the time.
- These proposals best reflect the 21 criteria included in your handout. These criteria were developed over the past year of consultation with clergy and lay leaders.
- These proposals are ultimately incomplete because they have not benefited from your input.

# How do these models make things better?

**The goal of ministry is to create more followers of Jesus, or in other words, more disciples.**

Discipleship and ministry go hand in hand. Every parishioner is called to share their faith with others and be On Mission by using their gifts to serve others. In order to support parishioners in this call, parishes cannot have all of their resources consumed by building maintenance, debt payments, and basic utilities. As pastors are called to lead larger communities, they need fewer administrative tasks and more help from professional staff to ensure our parishes are focused on mission, not simply maintenance.

The DRAFT models propose changes that direct more resources to ministry while taking into account the current realities facing our community. In these DRAFT models you will see proposed mergers and suggestions for the use of fewer facilities that enables:

- The projected number of priests to continue providing quality pastoral care including assigning priest chaplains dedicated to serving the aged, those who are sick and dying, and the grieving.
- Hiring lay ministers whose time is dedicated to the implementation of strategies which strengthen parents in their roles as the primary teachers of faith, fortify religious education, engage the whole family in sacramental preparation and provide for adult formation.
- Providing more resources for quality music at Mass and fuller, more engaging worship experiences.

**In some of our parishes these kinds of vibrant ministries are already present because resources are already present and plentiful.**

**On Mission wants to ensure that vibrant ministries are alive and present in every single parish.**

# Criteria for Development of DRAFT Models

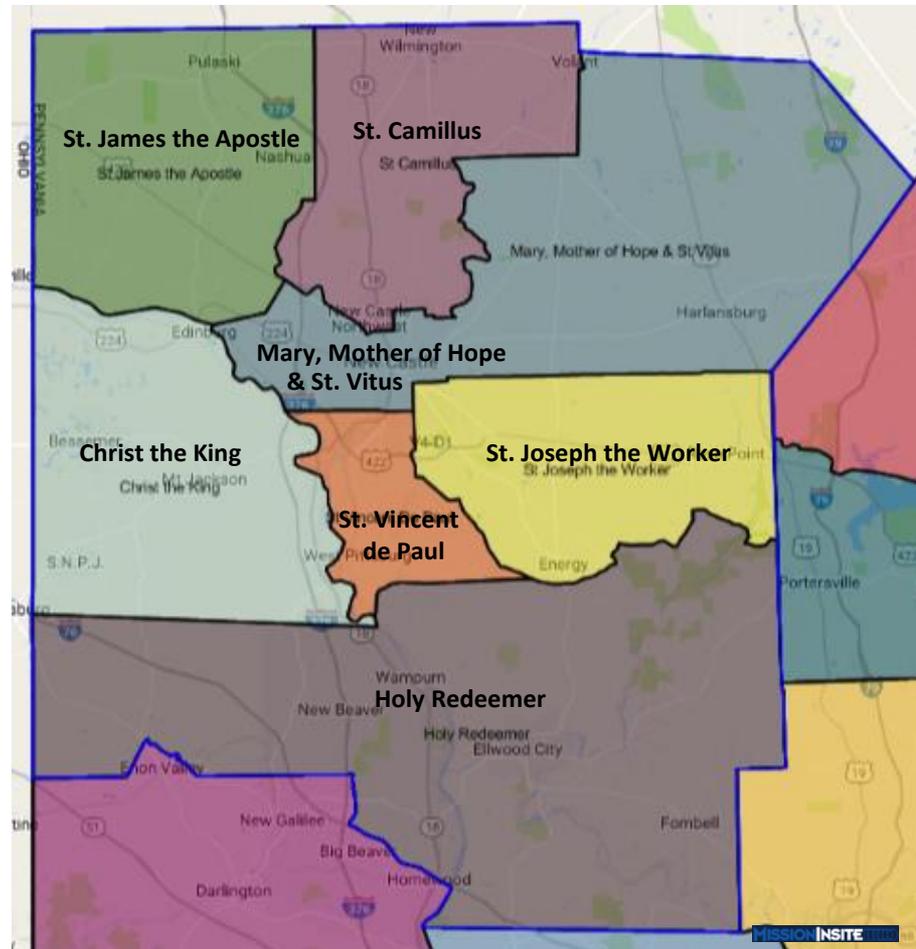
| CRITERIA      |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>GROWTH</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan on 25% growth based on 2015 October Mass counts. The proposals must allow enough space for new Sunday Mass attendees.</li> <li>2. Consider the total population (Catholics and others) of the area.</li> <li>3. Plan for individual parishioner registrations of between 7,000 and 60,000.</li> <li>4. Build upon existing collaboration between parishes when possible.</li> <li>5. Anticipate growth in parishioner gatherings outside of Mass and growth in staff, with adequate space for office, meetings, large and small gatherings and parking.</li> <li>6. Consider the present needs for pastoral care and plan for realistic, sustainable growth for the next 20 years.</li> </ol>   |
| <b>CARE</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. No less than 1,000 persons attending Sunday Mass and preferably between 2,000 and 4,000 to ensure quality worship, accessibility to a priest, and enough resources.</li> <li>8. Do not exceed 1 priest for every 2,400 persons attending Sunday Mass unless a priest is required to minister to a community with specific needs for language or specialized skills.</li> <li>9. Assignments for priests include coverage of hospitals, prisons, nursing homes and other institutions with sacramental needs.</li> <li>10. Consider natural traffic patterns and topography to ensure accessibility to worship.</li> <li>11. Consider existing relationships and connections among communities.</li> <li>12. Consider where registered parishioners live in relationship to their current parish territorial boundaries.</li> </ol> |

# Criteria for Development of DRAFT Models

| CRITERIA         |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>RESOURCES</b> | <p>13. In order to provide a strong financial base for ministry, do not group parishes in great financial distress together -- or those of great affluence together -- unless no neighboring parish is in a different situation.</p> <p>14. For the sake of outreach to the poor and the salvation of souls, the criteria for financial viability can be waived if there is a sound alternative financial plan.</p> <p>15. Consider the impact that parish debt or savings will have on another parish if there is a merger. This includes the transfer of debt and/or savings as to not gravely or disproportionately impact the parishes of reception or new parish entity.</p>  |
| <b>CLERGY</b>    | <p>16. Plan for 60% of the 2016 diocesan priests in active ministry based on current priest and seminarian projections. That projection would be 133 priests in active ministry.</p> <p>17. Assume that 100 permanent deacons will be available to serve in parishes.</p> <p>18. Plan for no more than 1 Saturday Vigil and 2 Sunday Masses per priest assigned.</p> <p>19. The proposals may call for a Deacon Administrator or Parish Life Collaborator without a resident priest, if a non- resident Priest Director provides oversight and care of souls.</p> <p>20. When possible, assume that the priestly residence is separate from rectory offices to provide adequate personal space for the priest(s).</p> <p>21. If the proposal includes priests living together, the rectory must have adequate living space for each of them.</p> |

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# Greater New Castle Area (Vicariate 4 – District 1)



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# Greater New Castle Area Current Model

- 8 parishes, 9 church buildings
  1. St. Camillus, Neshannock Township
  2. Christ the King, Bessemer/Hillsville
  3. Holy Redeemer, Ellwood City/Koppel/Wampum
  4. St. James the Apostle, Pulaski
  5. St. Joseph the Worker, New Castle
  6. Mary, Mother of Hope, New Castle
  7. St. Vincent de Paul, New Castle
  8. St. Vitus, New Castle
- Catholic education
  - 1 elementary school (163 students in Catholic K-8 school)
  - 862 students in religious education
- 4 Priests, 3 Deacons
  - 4 parishes share 1 pastor
  - Priest to parishioner ratio = 1: 4,500
- 7 FT LEMs and 19 PT LEMs
- 20 weekend Masses
- 71,400 total population
- 3,800 weekly Mass goers (averaging about 190 people per Mass)
- Overall the district struggles financially on an operating basis but several parishes have large savings balances.

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# Greater New Castle Area DRAFT Model #32: 2-Parish Model\*

## Parish A – 1 Campus

- St. Joseph the Worker
- Mary, Mother of Hope
- St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Vitus
  
- 1 Pastor
- 1 Parochial Vicar
- 1 Priest Chaplain
- 1 Deacon
- 4 LEMs
- 43,700 total population
- 2,700 weekly Mass goers

## Parish B – 1 Campus

- St. Camillus
- Christ the King
- St. James the Apostle
  
- 1 Pastor
- 1 Deacon
- 2 LEMs
- 27,700 total population
- 1,000 weekly Mass goers

*\*indicates that parishes from another district are included*

\*Holy Redeemer re-districted to Beaver Valley (V3D2) or Central Butler County/Southern Lawrence County (V4D3)

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# Greater New Castle Area DRAFT Model #33: 1-Parish Model\*

## Parish A – 2 Campuses

- 7 parishes merge into one new parish
  - St. Camillus, Neshannock Township
  - Christ the King, Bessemer/Hillsville
  - St. James the Apostle, Pulaski
  - St. Joseph the Worker, New Castle
  - Mary, Mother of Hope, New Castle
  - St. Vincent de Paul, New Castle
  - St. Vitus, New Castle
    - \*Holy Redeemer is re-districted to Beaver Valley (V3D2) or Central Butler County/Southern Lawrence County (V4D3)
- 1 Pastor
- 2 Parochial Vicars
- 1 Priest Chaplain
- 2 Deacons
- 4 LEMs
- 2 Campuses
- 71,400 total population
- 3,800 weekly Mass goers

\*Holy Redeemer re-districted to Beaver Valley (V3D2) or Central Butler County/Southern Lawrence County (V4D3)

# Resources Available to You at: [onmissionchurhalive.org](http://onmissionchurhalive.org)

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Principles regarding Evangelization and Outreach
- Reflections and Prayer Resources
- Comprehensive Facilities Studies
- Model Presentations for all areas in the Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Opportunity to provide additional feedback
- **You can also call 412-456-3180 for questions or more information**

**Thank you for your participation!**