

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

COUNTY: MONMOUTH

COHORT 11

PARISHES

St. Veronica
St. William the Abbot
St. Catherine of Siena

CITIES

Howell
Howell
Farmingdale

SCHOOLS

St. Veronica

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 Cohort Suggestions for your future.

Commendations

We commend you for:

- Promoting a spirit of cooperation and shared responsibilities to maximize the strengths of each parish.
- The cohort's willingness to allow opposing points of view.
- A willingness to share resources and ministries.
- Your plans to work together to share purchasing power and use of facilities and grounds.
- A willingness to promote and establish staggered Mass schedules to accommodate parishioners.
- The cohort's recognition of the importance of the central role of the pastor in the life of the parish.

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 only agree with some of your two Cohort Suggestions and we make the following preliminary recommendations:

- **Model Two: Linked Parishes** between St. Veronica and St. Catherine of Siena
- **Model Two: Linked Parishes** between St. William the Abbot and Epiphany (Cohort 20)
- **Model One: Collaborative Parishes** among the three parishes in the cohort and Epiphany

We further recommend that you:

1. Seek ways to expand youth programs and strengthen faith formation for adults.
2. Develop an action plan to address St. Veronica School's enrollment and finances.
3. Focus on bringing families back to church and develop a process to invite new members.
4. Consider planning to develop programs and ministries to the Hispanic communities now, even though there doesn't seem to be a current need.
5. Address the concerns expressed in the "minority" suggestion relative to (1) sustainability over time and (2) the engagement of students after Confirmation.
6. Evaluate the short and long term potential effect of taxes on home ownership and the growth of the Hassidic Orthodox community on the population in the territory of these parishes.

Rationale

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

1. Reports from both groups outlining Plan A and Plan B.
2. Enrollment issues raised at St. Veronica School.
3. A stated need to grow adult and youth activities.
4. Reports by individual parishes referring to the need for parent participation and attendance at Mass.
5. References to changing demographics in surrounding areas, particularly the growth of the Hassidic Orthodox community and the negative effects of home values and sales.
6. We believe our preliminary recommendations for models and ministries will help Cohort 11 achieve the 5 goals approved by Bishop O'Connell for *Faith in Our Future*.