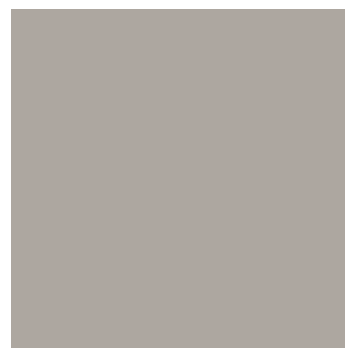

Pastoral Plan



Deaneries 9, 10 and partial 12
Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph

June 2023

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LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

June 26, 2023

Dear Faithful of the Parishes in Deaneries 9, 10 and partial 12,

Beginning in February of 2023, 15 parishes and 5 missions in deaneries 9, 10 and 12 were the subject of an important study. The purpose of the study was to review community demographic projections and forecasts as well as parish data trends to determine a pastoral strategy which will lead to greater vitality for the future. We also took into account the future availability of resources within the diocese. The study has now been completed with the finalization of a pastoral plan.

The parishes and missions in this study represent the history and the future of the Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph. While this history is important, the study has provided an opportunity for all the parishes and missions to look to the future with hope and renew the commitment to carry out the mission of the Church.

The guiding vision for the plan comes from our diocesan vision – **One Family: Restored in Christ, Equipped for Mission**. The plan is a guide for new vitality among the deanery parishes and a path to carry out mission and ministry more effectively in the surrounding neighborhoods. The plan also incorporates the specific goals of the vision: **Healing our Family, Using Resources Wisely, and Growing God’s Family**.

This plan was developed collaboratively and in the spirit of subsidiarity. Each parish and mission was asked to select two parish representatives as part of the Deanery Planning Committee. The committee met as representatives of each deanery. The configurations and deanery plans were developed by the Deanery Planning Committee in collaboration with a Diocesan Leadership Team, involving deanery and diocesan officials. We proceed with the conviction that the Holy Spirit has guided this process and inspired those involved to discern a future filled with hope.

Mindful of the challenges that the deanery parishes and missions are facing, the implementation of this plan will not be easy. It will require dedication, perseverance, and challenging work, not just on the parts of our priests, deacons, parish staffs, and parish leaders, but from all present and future parishioners. Over the centuries, the Church has faced many challenges which were met by those who have gone before us in faith. We have great hope for success because Christ has promised “to be with us always.” This planning effort serves as a call to every parish member to commit anew to help build up the Church.

Many of the parishes in these deaneries were established at a time when the Catholic Church and the neighborhoods looked different than now: pews and Catholic schools were filled, and the parish was at the center of people’s lives. From our experience, we know that people, neighborhoods, and society change. The opportunity is now for the parishes in each deanery to focus on building up the Church by casting our nets wider and deeper. Please pray that all who work on the implementation of this pastoral plan be blessed and all the plans for greater parish vibrancy be realized.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ James V. Johnston, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr., DD,
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph

I. INTRODUCTION

In July of 2020, the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy issued new instructions on parish reform. The document is titled, ***"The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Evangelizing Mission of the Church."*** Its stated goal of parish reform is to move parishes from a "self-preservation" model to one of "evangelization." The document further encourages parishes to become less "interested in preserving a nostalgia of former times as opposed to looking to the future with courage." The pastoral plan for each deanery will emphasize both evangelization and courage when looking to the future.

The study of deaneries 9, 10 and part of 12 in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is an effort to bring new vibrancy to the 20 parishes and missions in the image suggested by Pope Francis. The study is conducted by Meitler, a Milwaukee-area based national consulting firm that has focused on Catholic school and parish strategic planning, in collaboration with diocesan and parish leaders, for more than 50 years.

Beginning in February of 2023, community demographics and parish data were collected and studied. In March, interviews were conducted with the pastoral leadership and parish representatives. These interviews produced many ideas about the direction which the plan should take for the future. Each parish campus was visited, and the buildings were toured.

Much has been learned about the makeup of the various communities within each deanery as well as the projected and forecasted futures. The population and makeup of each deanery will retain its racial and ethnic diversity, household economics, and population characteristics, but with overall declines. There are some parishes and missions which are struggling with small memberships, declining sacramental practice, and decreasing finances. From a faith and religious perspective, over three-of-five residents in each deanery do not belong to or participate in any religious community or congregation. The complete collection of the information is available in a "Key Findings and Observations Report" on the diocesan website.

This final plan is designed to be a growth plan. The strategy involves increasing parish memberships throughout the deanery to the 150-household threshold for long-term sustainability. This strategy also builds on the locations of communities on major highways and/or the development of emerging economies based on tourism or transportation. Think of these strategies in terms of "where would a diocese locate parishes today?"

The data and future projections tell us that many parishes as they are currently organized will be unable to continue to function as they have in the past. Change, a significant amount of change, will be needed for these parishes to turn the corner into a new future. We move forward with the promise that Jesus left with His disciples and all His future followers – "I am with you always." (*Matthew 28:20*)

II. VISION AND STRATEGY

One of the pioneers of church planning, the late Fr. George Wilson, S.J., rooted his zeal for planning the future of parishes in the death and resurrection of Jesus. All parishes and dioceses experience dying and rising in their histories. Without dying, there can be no new life. Planning, according to Fr. Wilson, is an act of hope – dying parishes can be resurrected and good parishes can become better through a commitment to a life-giving strategic plan.

As this planning process unfolds, it is apparent that there will need to be a vision which can guide the strategy for the next five to ten years and beyond. The vision of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph – **One Family: Restored in Christ. Equipped for Mission.** – offers the essential inspiration to provide the best spiritual and pastoral care for the people of each deanery. There are three key priorities in the vision.

A. Healing Our Family – *Tending wounds and accompanying hearts to freedom in Christ*

The areas served by the parishes in the deaneries have experienced considerable change and transition over the past decades. Parishes in the future must be prepared to be in the forefront of a response to those in need.

B. Using Resources Wisely – *Aligning God's gifts for the Church's life and mission*

The smaller a parish becomes, the more difficult it is to fund staff positions and to offer a full range of ministries. The plan must provide every person in the deanery with the opportunity to experience the mission of Jesus in its fullness.

C. Growing God's Family – *Activating our baptismal call to holiness and being missionary disciples*

The path to growth in the future will be different than the paths which led to the amazing growth of the Church in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century. The Church has grown significantly through immigration, the migration of peoples, and baptism. Heralded by all the Popes since the 1960's, the Church must now be focused on a new evangelization. Catholics do not automatically join parishes, have their children baptized, nor attend Mass as regularly as in the past. Parishes must become more intentional about inviting and welcoming people into their communities of faith as well as forming them into missionary disciples.

There are conclusions which can be drawn from each deanery's demographics and parish data: there are population changes, diminishing connection with any religious denomination, aging memberships, and declining sacramental practice. To bring new vitality to the parishes in each deanery, a plan will need to emphasize the consolidation of resources and the creation of operational efficiencies.

Every parish will be impacted by the plan in some way. The diocesan vision will serve as the measure of how effectively the plan has helped parishes carry out the mission of Christ and the Church.

III. CRITERIA FOR THE DETERMINATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Making recommendations about the future of parishes requires some objective criteria or indicators of vibrant ministry to guide the decision-making process. Five areas have been identified as ways of evaluating not only how well each parish has conducted itself in recent history but to assess the parish's capacity for growth in the future. The criteria are listed below and, even though they are numbered, the numbers do not represent a priority of importance.

1. Parish membership, sacramental life, involvement of parishioners in councils and other ministries.

What do the parish data trends tell us about the current state of the parish and its future? Does the parish have the people power to reverse negative trends?

2. Financial stability of the parish.

What is the financial condition of the parish and what are the financial trends? Has the parish significantly reduced its ability to rebound by cutting staff and ministries?

3. Potential for population and membership growth and other demographics.

Is the parish located in an area where growth and other hopeful demographics are projected and forecast? Does the parish have the capacity to attract new people to the parish?

4. Seating capacity of the church and the capability of other facilities to support vibrant ministry.

Does the parish have the physical capacity to accommodate more worshippers? Are there adequate facilities and fixtures to support ministries which are needed today?

5. Condition of the facilities and capability to update and renovate.

Has the parish practiced deferred maintenance? Are the facilities able to be updated and does the parish have the financial resources and support to fund any building projects and ongoing maintenance?

These criteria are used to determine which parish designations would have the greatest long-term impact for the parishes in the deanery. The parish designations are described on the next page.

IV. PARISH DESIGNATIONS

Parish life has become more complex and culturally diverse. Both church law regarding parishes and the collective wisdom of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have provided some potential strategies for parishes to better serve their people. The following designations have been identified for use in the Diocese. They are either already in use or may be used in the future.

STAND-ALONE PARISH

A traditional parish with its own pastor, parish church, finances, finance and pastoral councils, parish staff and office.

CLUSTERED PARISHES

Two or more parishes with a shared pastor, their own churches, finances, councils, and staffs. There can be additional collaboration in personnel, ministries, and resources.

MERGED PARISH

One type of merger has one or more parishes being combined into an existing parish. The parishes are closed, and the churches can either be closed or serve as a worship site as a “sister church.” Another type of merger has the merging parishes combined into one parish with a single name formed from those of both parishes. The third type of merger has two or more parishes which become a new parish with a new name, one pastor, finances, finance and pastoral councils, parish staff and office. One church is identified as the parish or “mother” church. There can be additional sites for Mass and other celebrations which are referred to as “sister churches.”

SHARED PARISH

A parish in which two or more languages or cultural contexts are present in the ministerial life of the parish and they worship and share their common faith under the same roof.

SISTER CHURCH

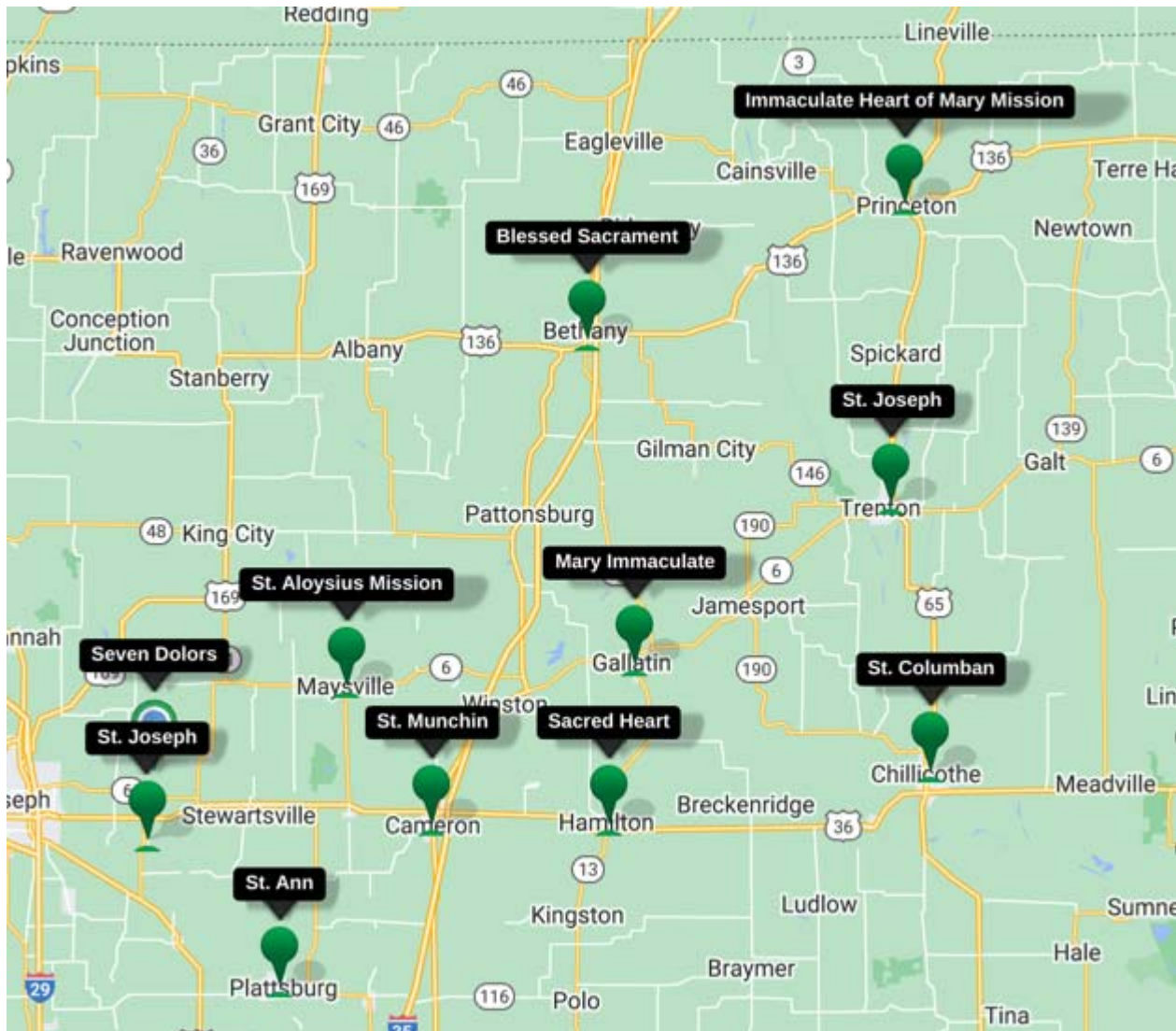
When two or more parishes are merged, one church is designated as the parish or “mother” church and the others serve as “sister” churches.

PARISH FAMILY

A group of parishes are organized to collaborate on ministries and other activities. This designation is used when clustering and/or mergers cannot create the efficiencies which will aid viability and future growth. A parish family is frequently formed among the parishes in a deanery. Like all relationships, the degree to which these parish families collaborate over the years will depend on the depth of their bonds and commitments to each other.

V. DEANERIES 9/12

MAP SHOWING PARISHES IN DEANERIES 9/12



PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARISHES IN DEANERIES 9/12

1. THE PARISH OF ST. ANN PARISH IN PLATTSBURG WILL REMAIN A STAND-ALONE PARISH.

A. St. Ann, Plattsburg

Parish Facts

St. Ann, Plattsburg

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	6	1	1	1	6	5	-1	-17%
Youth First Communions	4	2	2	3	9	9	5	125%
Youth Confirmations	7	1	1	0	7	1	-6	-86%
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	
Marriages	0	2	5	2	5	3	3	
Deaths	8	13	5	10	2	2	-6	-75%
Registered Catholic households ¹	150	129	128	128	131	140	-10	-7%
Average Mass attendance	133	120	149	125	217	167	34	26%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	35	35	6	0	41	38	3	9%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	0	0	12	15	15	

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 128.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Parish Recommendations

1. Continue with the planning efforts to renovate the interior of the church.
2. Explore ways for St. Ann to provide sacramental ministry for those who attend Mass at the Benedictine Abbey in Gower.
3. Create a strategy to engage parishioners in praying for priests and vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
4. Develop adult faith formation opportunities which includes catechesis and small faith groups.
5. Establish an approach to city evangelization and community outreach, including invitations to the re-dedication of the church, concerts with the new organ, and tours of the church.

2. THE PARISH OF ST. COLUMBAN IN CHILLICOTHE WILL REMAIN A STAND-ALONE PARISH.

A. St. Columban, Chillicothe

Parish Facts

St. Columban, Chillicothe

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	8	8	7	9	9	8	0	0%
Youth First Communions	17	17	16	15	14	18	1	6%
Youth Confirmations	16	16	11	10	18	14	-2	-13%
Youth Catechumens	3	3	0	2	5	6	3	100%
Adult Catechumens	7	7	0	1	3	1	-6	-86%
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	1	3	5	5	
Marriages	5	5	6	5	7	5	0	0%
Deaths	8	8	11	11	17	21	13	163%
Registered Catholic households ¹	436	437	420	417	401	394	-42	-10%
Average Mass attendance	143	464	462	353	380	411	268	187%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	26	26	29	27	0	0	-26	-100%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 397.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Parish Recommendations

1. Continue planning efforts for the renovation of the school buildings, which are also used for other ministerial needs.
2. Prepare to welcome parishioners from other parishes in the area which may be merging and closing.
3. Develop a strategy to encourage prayer for priests and vocations, including the promotion of serving at the altar.
4. Create a strategy to encourage and support young families in their faith.
5. Promote adult faith formation.

3. THE MISSION OF ST. ALOYSIUS IN MAYSVILLE WILL MERGE WITH THE PARISH OF ST. MUNCHIN IN CAMERON. THE PARISH OF SEVEN DOLORS IN HURLINGEN WILL MERGE WITH THE PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH IN EASTON. ST. JOSEPH AND ST. MUNCHIN WILL DEVELOP A COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP, WITH ST. MUNCHIN SERVING AS THE MINISTRY CENTER.

A. St. Aloysius Mission, Maysville

Parish Facts

St. Aloysius, Maysville

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Youth First Communions	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-100%
Youth Confirmations	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deaths	0	1	1	2	0	3	3	
Registered Catholic households ¹	33	34	36	26	26	29	-4	-12%
Average Mass attendance	28	26	28	0	0	25	-3	-11%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	3	2	2	2	2	1	-2	-67%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0%

Source: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form

Parish Recommendations

1. The merger of St. Aloysius Mission with St. Munchin Parish will be completed by the Fall of 2023. Parishioners are encouraged to become members at St. Munchin but are free to join any other parish in the area.
2. The disposition of the mission's buildings will be the responsibility of the diocesan merger team in dialogue with parish leadership.

B. St. Munchin, Cameron

Parish Facts

St. Munchin, Cameron

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	4	3	4	3	2	4	0	0%
Youth First Communions	1	9	5	7	7	6	5	500%
Youth Confirmations	0	5	4	4	1	9	9	
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	1	0	1	5	0	0	-1	-100%
Number of Candidates	1	3	4	1	0	0	-1	-100%
Marriages	0	1	2	4	3	0	0	
Deaths	3	10	2	7	10	6	3	100%
Registered Catholic households ¹	280	251	267	267	263	273	-7	-3%
Average Mass attendance	246	189	211	135	168	167	-79	-32%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	34	32	46	55	40	30	-4	-12%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	5	3	6	5	2	0	-5	-100%

Source: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form

Parish Recommendations

1. Continue planning efforts for the renovation of the school and office building to better serve the ministerial needs of the parishioners.
2. Develop a strategy to welcome new parishioners from the area communities and foster greater ministerial collaboration between St. Munchin and St. Joseph in Easton.

C. Seven Dolors, Hurlingen

Parish Facts

Seven Dolors, Hurlingen

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	0	0	1	0	4	2	2	
Youth First Communions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Youth Confirmations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deaths	3	4	2	3	1	1	-2	-67%
Registered Catholic households ¹	38	38	30	24	20	20	-18	-47%
Average Mass attendance	35	35	35	24	27	27	-8	-23%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 30.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form

Parish Recommendations

1. Parishioners are encouraged to consider becoming members at St. Joseph Parish but are free to register in any parish in the area.
2. The disposition of parish facilities will be the responsibility of the diocesan merger team in dialogue with parish leadership.

D. St. Joseph, Easton

Parish Facts

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	2	2	2	1	0	1	-1	-50%
Youth First Communions	2	3	1	1	2	0	-2	-100%
Youth Confirmations	4	4	7	4	0	4	0	0%
Youth Catechumens	3	3	0	0	0	0	-3	-100%
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Marriages	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Deaths	3	2	2	1	6	4	1	33%
Registered Catholic households ¹	95	91	89	89	89	80	-15	-16%
Average Mass attendance	106	82	97	54	70	70	-36	-34%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	19	18	13	13	13	0	-19	-100%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Parish Recommendations

1. St. Joseph Parish will be given up to two years for its viability to be ascertained. Viability will be determined by showing increases in parish data from the current levels in April of 2023 to the following April. A worksheet for monitoring this status is available in the appendix of this document.
2. By merging with Seven Dolores and actively collaborating with St. Munchin in Cameron, St. Joseph should have the potential to increase the number of households and improve the ministries within the parish.

Recommendations for Ministry among the Collaborating Parishes

1. (Welcome) Establish teams of parishioners to contact every person on the parish roster.
2. (Invite) Have social events along with Mass to invite people to get to know one another. Events could include picnics, potlucks, and adoration.
3. (Nurture) Strengthen Parish Schools of Religion for elementary and high school students and reach out to the elderly.

Projected Impact of Recommended Changes

1. The merger of Seven Dolores in Hurlingen with St. Joseph in Easton, the merger of St. Aloysius in Maysville with St. Munchin in Cameron, and the collaboration of St. Munchin and St. Joseph will create growth potential for a community with 402 households, revenues of approximately \$462,000, and a reduction from four sites to two.

4. THE MISSION OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY IN PRINCETON WILL MERGE WITH THE PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH IN TRENTON. THE PARISH OF SACRED HEART IN HAMILTON WILL MERGE WITH THE PARISH OF MARY IMMACULATE IN GALLATIN. THE PARISHES OF ST. JOSEPH, MARY IMMACULATE, AND BLESSED SACRAMENT IN BETHANY WILL DEVELOP A COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP.

A. Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission, Princeton

Parish Facts

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Princeton

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	2	1	1	1	10	2	0	0%
Youth First Communions	4	0	0	0	1	1	-3	-75%
Youth Confirmations	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deaths	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-100%
Registered Catholic households ¹	50	51	48	26	30	30	-20	-40%
Average Mass attendance	43	41	32	20	20	20	-23	-53%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	7	6	0	0	3	3	-4	-57%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	3	2	0	0	2	2	-1	-33%

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 28.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Parish Recommendations

1. Immaculate Heart of Mary will merge with St. Joseph in Trenton by June of 2024. Parishioners are encouraged to become members at St. Joseph Parish but are free to join any other parish in the area.
2. The disposition of the mission's facilities will be the responsibility of the diocesan merger team in dialogue with mission leadership.

B. St. Joseph, Trenton.

Parish Facts

St. Joseph, Trenton

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	2	2	2	2	1	1	-1	-50%
Youth First Communions	0	0	0	0	5	2	2	
Youth Confirmations	4	4	4	4	2	2	-2	-50%
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deaths	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	0%
Registered Catholic households ¹	101	101	101	61	61	61	-40	-40%
Average Mass attendance	109	109	109	59	35	35	-74	-68%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	13	13	13	7	4	4	-9	-69%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	8	8	8	4	0	0	-8	-100%

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 57.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Parish Recommendations

1. Prepare to welcome parishioners from other parishes which may be merging and closing, especially from Immaculate Heart of Mary in Princeton.
2. Develop a strategy to serve the students at the local college as well as Spanish-speaking Catholics who may be in the area.
3. St. Joseph in Trenton should develop a collaborative relationship with Blessed Sacrament in Bethany and Mary Immaculate in Gallatin, served by one pastor, to increase membership and improve the ministerial activity among the parishes.

C. Sacred Heart, Hamilton

Parish Facts

Sacred Heart, Hamilton

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0%
Youth First Communions	2	4	0	0	3	0	-2	-100%
Youth Confirmations	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Marriages	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	
Deaths	2	1	2	5	1	4	2	100%
Registered Catholic households ¹	62	64	66	62	41	53	-9	-15%
Average Mass attendance	98	98	80	46	62	63	-35	-36%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	8	11	11	11	0	9	1	13%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 57.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form

Parish Recommendations

1. Sacred Heart Parish will merge with Mary Immaculate Parish in Gallatin by June of 2024. Parishioners will be encouraged to join St. Munchin in Cameron or Mary Immaculate in Gallatin but are free to join any other parish in the area.
2. The disposition of parish buildings will be the responsibility of the diocesan merger team in dialogue with parish leadership.

D. Mary Immaculate, Gallatin

Parish Facts

Mary Immaculate, Gallatin

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	1	2	0	0	3	0	-1	-100%
Youth First Communions	6	0	0	2	0	0	-6	-100%
Youth Confirmations	2	5	0	0	6	0	-2	-100%
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	2	3	2	2	
Marriages	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-100%
Deaths	1	1	0	1	2	0	-1	-100%
Registered Catholic households ¹	48	50	48	50	29	42	-6	-13%
Average Mass attendance	153	136	110	53	88	87	-66	-43%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	9	8	7	9	8	11	2	22%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	6	6	0	2	0	2	-4	-67%

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 50.

Source: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form

Parish Recommendations

1. Prepare to welcome parishioners from other parishes which may be merging and closing, particularly those from Sacred Heart in Hamilton.
2. Mary Immaculate Parish should develop a collaborative relationship with Blessed Sacrament in Bethany and St. Joseph in Trenton, served by one pastor, to increase membership and improve the ministerial activity among the parishes.

E. Blessed Sacrament, Bethany

Parish Facts

Blessed Sacrament, Bethany

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	7	3	0	0	0	0	-7	-100%
Youth First Communions	1	1	0	0	0	0	-1	-100%
Youth Confirmations	2	2	0	0	0	0	-2	-100%
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	1	1	0	0	0	0	-1	-100%
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deaths	0	5	4	4	1	1	1	
Registered Catholic households ¹	66	66	66	30	44	44	-22	-33%
Average Mass attendance	81	83	76	25	49	49	-32	-40%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	11	11	9	9	12	12	1	9%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	100%

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 39.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form

Parish Recommendations

1. Develop a strategy to welcome new parishioners from the surrounding communities which may be merging or closing.
2. Blessed Sacrament in Bethany should develop a collaborative relationship with Mary Immaculate in Gallatin and St. Joseph in Trenton, served by one pastor, to increase membership and improve the ministerial activity among the parishes.

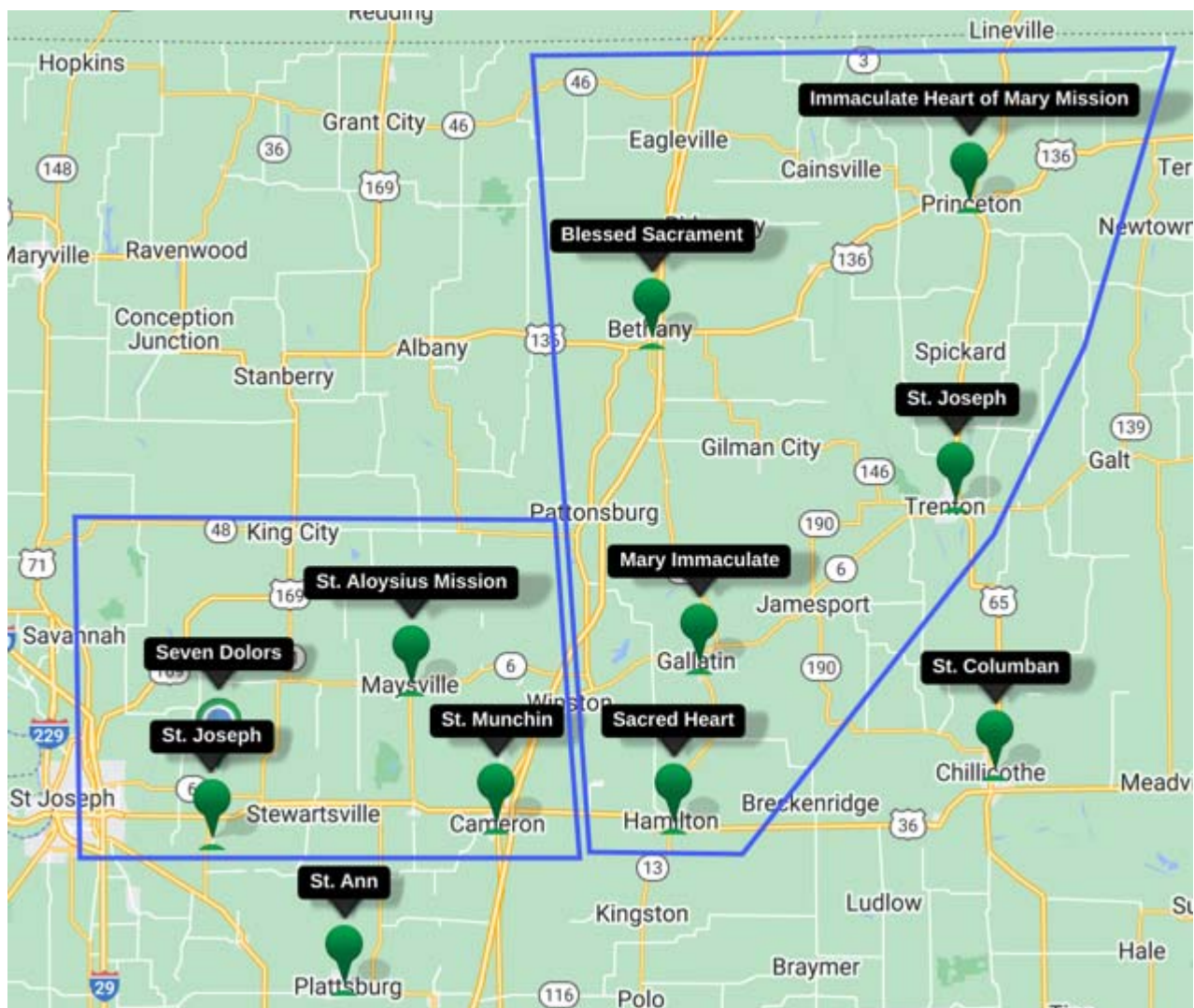
Recommendations for Ministry among the Collaborating Parishes

1. Advocate for an Office for Rural Ministry at the diocesan level.
2. Create a committee of representatives from each parish to organize and host social events as well as focus on ministerial outreach and collaboration among the parishes.
3. Explore the potential to adopt a seminarian program which engages the members of the parishes in the support of diocesan vocations to the priesthood.
4. Create an evangelization plan.

Projected Impact of Recommended Changes

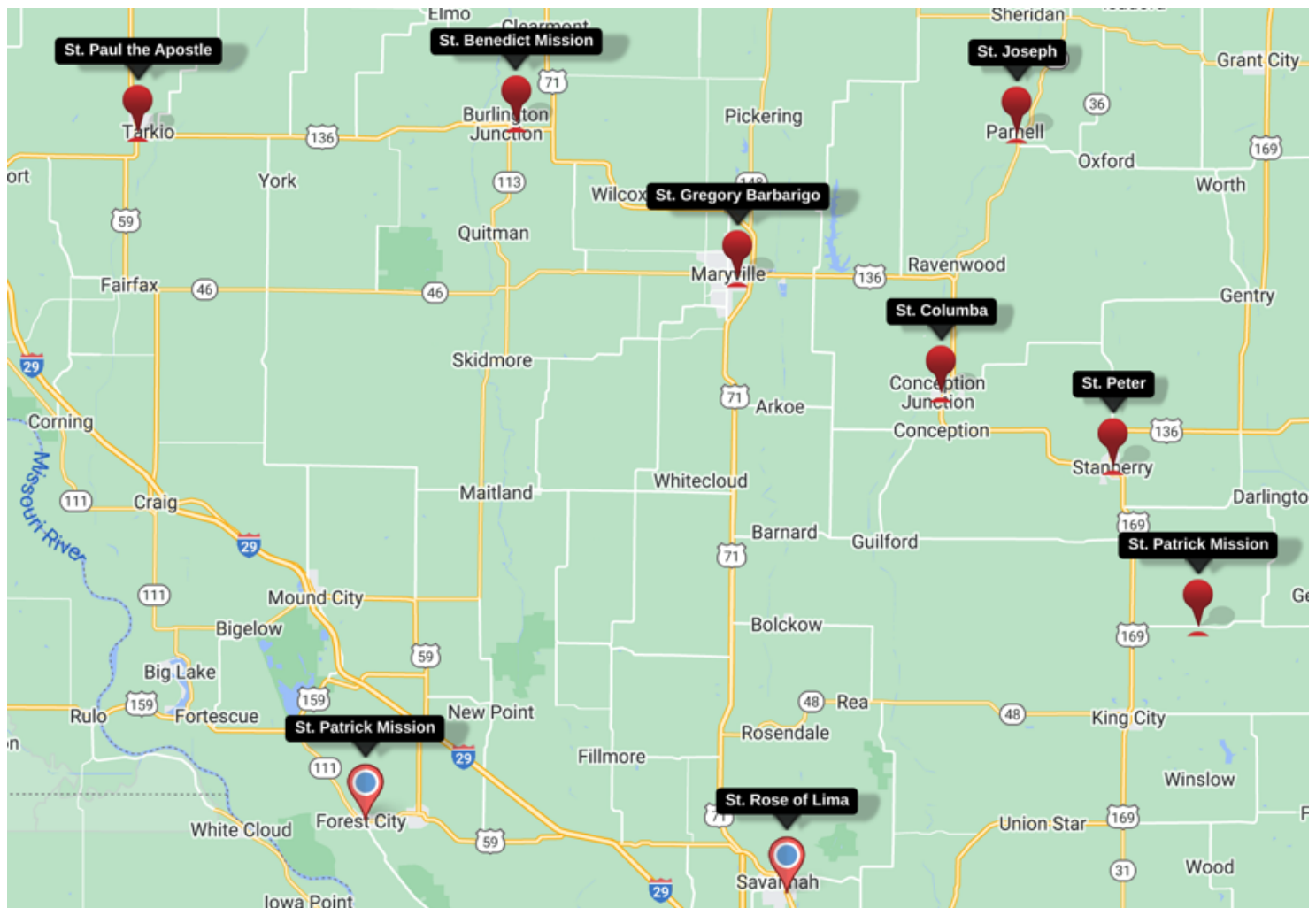
1. The merger of Sacred Heart in Hamilton with Mary Immaculate in Gallatin, the merger of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Princeton with St. Joseph in Trenton, and the collaboration of Mary Immaculate and St. Joseph with Blessed Sacrament in Bethany will create growth potential for a community with 230 households, revenues of approximately \$331,000, and a reduction from five sites to three.

NEW CONFIGURATION MAP FOR DEANERIES 9/12



VI. DEANERIES 10/12

MAP SHOWING PARISHES IN DEANERIES 10/12



PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEANERIES 10/12

1. THE PARISH OF ST. GREGORY BARBARIGO IN MARYVILLE WILL REMAIN A STAND-ALONE PARISH.

A. St. Gregory Barbarigo, Maryville

Parish Facts

St. Gregory Barbarigo, Maryville

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17-21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	27	17	18	24	14	18	-9	-33%
Youth First Communion	31	31	23	20	21	32	1	3%
Youth Confirmations	15	15	18	16	8	18	3	20%
Youth Catechumens	0	1	5	1	0	2	2	
Adult Catechumens	3	4	3	2	4	3	0	0%
Number of Candidates	0	11	6	7	2	2	2	
Marriages	9	8	16	6	7	10	1	11%
Deaths	22	35	21	19	23	19	-3	-14%
Registered Catholic households ¹	901	893	888	824	807	809	-92	-10%
Average Mass attendance	915	878	760	440	494	458	-457	-50%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	141	119	89	92	96	71	-70	-50%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	6	22	0	10	10	

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 801.

Source: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form

Parish Recommendations

1. Continue with planning efforts for the additional space needed for ministry as well as greater use of outside space.
2. Support the study and development of a new parish location in the west-central part of the deanery by inviting any existing parishioners from that area to express their interest and support for a new location.
3. Study the possibilities of having a full-time youth minister.
4. Increase parishioner involvement in the mission and ministry to Catholic families.
5. Develop a strategy to pray for priests and vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

2. **THE PARISH OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE IN TARKIO AND THE MISSION OF ST. BENEDICT IN BURLINGTON JUNCTION WILL MERGE. THE LEADERSHIP OF ST. PAUL PARISH AND ST. PATRICK MISSION IN FOREST CITY WILL EXPLORE FORMING A NEW PARISH FORMED BY THESE TWO CHURCH COMMUNITIES. THE PARISH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA IN SAVANNAH WILL REMAIN A STAND-ALONE PARISH BUT WILL PROVIDE SACRAMENTAL MINISTRY TO ST. PATRICK IN FOREST CITY AND A NEW PARISH, IF ESTABLISHED.**

A. St. Paul the Apostle, Tarkio

Parish Facts

St. Paul the Apostle, Tarkio

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	0	0	0	2	2	3	3	
Youth First Communions	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0%
Youth Confirmations	0	3	3	0	1	1	1	
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Marriages	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	
Deaths	0	3	1	0	1	2	2	
Registered Catholic households ¹	47	56	56	56	56	50	3	6%
Average Mass attendance	48	52	43	38	38	60	12	25%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	3	2	0	4	4	5	2	67%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	2	2	0	1	6	2	0	0%

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 53.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Parish Recommendations

1. Form a committee with representatives from St. Patrick in Forest City, St. Benedict in Burlington Junction, and St. Paul the Apostle in Tarkio, under the direction of the pastor of St. Rose of Lima, in Savannah. The committee will study the membership and financial potential of establishing a new parish site, possible locations, and potential for facilities, such as moving an existing church to the site, renovating an existing facility or building new structures. A report, including recommendations, will be submitted to the parishes for review and submitted to the Bishop for approval by May 1, 2024.
2. After the study has been reviewed by the Bishop, additional directives for the parishes along with a timeline will be shared with the parishes.

B. St. Benedict Mission, Burlington Junction

Parish Facts

St. Benedict, Burlington Junction

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	100%
Youth First Communions	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	
Youth Confirmations	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deaths	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0%
Registered Catholic households ¹	18	18	16	15	16	18	0	0%
Average Mass attendance	19	23	26	25	22	21	2	11%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 17.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Parish Recommendations

1. St. Benedict Mission in Burlington Junction will merge with St. Paul the Apostle in Tarkio by the Fall of 2023. Parishioners are invited to participate in the study regarding the establishment of a new parish in the area and are free to join other parishes in the area.
2. The disposition of the mission buildings will be the responsibility of the diocesan merger team in dialogue with mission leadership.

C. St. Patrick Mission, Forest City

Parish Facts

St. Patrick, Forest City

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Youth First Communions	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	
Youth Confirmations	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	
Youth Catechumens	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	1	1	0	2	2	2	
Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deaths	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	100%
Registered Catholic households ¹	29	27	27	22	28	27	-2	-7%
Average Mass attendance	21	21	27	16	0	16	-5	-24%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	2	3	7	7	5	5	
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	2	2	2	1	1	1	-1	-50%

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 28.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form

Parish Recommendations – Refer to the recommendations for St. Paul the Apostle in Tarkio

Recommendations for Ministry among the Collaborating Parishes

1. Strengthen Parish Schools of Religion and youth ministry, including the potential for these ministries to be home-based.
2. Develop adult faith formation evening studies.
3. Expand community social outreach.
4. Design approaches for adopting a seminarian and a retired priest.

Projected Impact of Recommended Changes

1. St. Paul the Apostle in Tarkio, St. Benedict Mission in Burlington Junction, and St. Patrick Mission in Forest City will collaborate on a study to establish a new site. This could create a community with 95 households and the potential to attract Catholics and tourists from the western part of the deanery, with revenues of approximately \$121,000, and the reduction from three sites to one.

D. St. Rose of Lima, Savannah

Parish Facts

St. Rose of Lima, Savannah

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	7	1	4	3	1	4	-3	-43%
Youth First Communions	6	8	9	5	4	6	0	0%
Youth Confirmations	10	3	7	9	5	5	-5	-50%
Youth Catechumens	7	7	3	0	0	0	-7	-100%
Adult Catechumens	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	1	2	3	3	3	
Marriages	0	1	2	4	1	1	1	
Deaths	4	4	2	5	3	5	1	25%
Registered Catholic households ¹	164	160	171	141	173	172	8	5%
Average Mass attendance	214	248	176	105	143	143	-71	-33%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	57	41	35	26	40	45	-12	-21%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	9	5	0	3	6	0	-9	-100%

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 175.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Parish Recommendations

1. The pastor of St. Rose of Lima will guide the study of a new location for a parish with representatives from the mission of St. Patrick in Forest City and St. Paul the Apostle in Tarkio. As the study is being conducted, the pastor will continue to serve the mission of St. Patrick.
2. The population growth in Savannah will continue but at a slow, but steady, rate. St. Rose of Lima should conduct a study of the condition and usage of its buildings and develop a master plan for the campus.
3. Develop strategies to increase parishioner involvement in the mission and ministry of the parish.
4. Create a stronger sense of welcome at all Masses, including having greeters at all Masses.
5. Establish a committee to seek out, welcome, and invite new area residents as well as parishioners who have not participated in the parish for a long time.

3. THE PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH IN PARNELL SHOULD CONSIDER A MERGER WITH ST. COLUMBA IN CONCEPTION JUNCTION. IF THE DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY-ST. JOSEPH WERE TO ASSUME THE PASTORATE OF THE PARISHES, ONE PRIEST WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO SERVE CONCEPTION JUNCTION AND ST. PETER IN STANBERRY.

A. St. Joseph, Parnell

Parish Facts

St. Joseph, Parnell

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	9	3	6	1	2	3	-6	-67%
Youth First Communions	3	3	3	2	5	4	1	33%
Youth Confirmations	7	7	0	8	0	0	-7	-100%
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
Marriages	1	2	2	0	3	1	0	0%
Deaths	1	5	2	0	4	1	0	0%
Registered Catholic households ¹	120	125	120	115	102	104	-16	-13%
Average Mass attendance	138	138	91	55	85	86	-52	-38%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	45	42	42	28	27	27	-18	-40%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	15	15	15	16	14	14	-1	-7%

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Parish Recommendations

1. St. Joseph should consider a merger with St. Columba in Conception Junction. Such a merger at this time could allow for the parish to continue to operate its facilities and have Sunday Mass.
2. The major changes are that all finances will now be shared and there will be one pastoral council and one finance council for both churches, with representatives from both sites. The Easter Triduum will also be celebrated at one site.

B. St. Columba, Conception Junction

Parish Facts

St. Columba, Conception Junction

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	7	7	17	9	8	8	1	14%
Youth First Communions	5	5	8	10	13	10	5	100%
Youth Confirmations	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Marriages	6	6	9	6	4	5	-1	-17%
Deaths	3	3	5	4	2	2	-1	-33%
Registered Catholic households ¹	216	216	217	207	230	235	19	9%
Average Mass attendance	352	352	358	143	197	202	-150	-43%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	59	59	65	50	63	64	5	8%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	27	27	16	35	22	12	-15	-56%

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 230.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Parish Recommendations

1. St. Columba should proceed with the planning efforts to renovate the church.
2. In conjunction with St. Joseph, the parishes should study ways to develop collaborative ministries for the two communities.
3. Other parish recommendations may be added.

4. THE MISSION OF ST. PATRICK IN FORD CITY SHOULD CONSIDER A MERGER WITH THE PARISH OF ST. PETER IN STANBERRY. IF THE DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY-ST. JOSEPH WERE TO ASSUME THE PASTORATE OF THE PARISHES, ONE PRIEST WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO SERVE STANBERRY AND CONCEPTION JUNCTION.

A. St. Patrick, Ford City

Parish Facts

St. Patrick, Ford City

Parish data	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	1	1	2	5	2	1	0	0%
Youth First Communions	2	4	2	2	2	2	0	0%
Youth Confirmations	0	0	4	0	0	3	3	
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of Candidates	1	1	1	0	0	0	-1	-100%
Marriages	2	29	2	0	0	0	-2	-100%
Deaths	2	2	1	0	3	0	-2	-100%
Registered Catholic households ¹	56	35	47	46	46	45	-11	-20%
Average Mass attendance	88	82	103	41	42	73	-15	-17%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	4	27	17	17	12	13	9	225%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	4	4	0	0	0	0	-4	-100%

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 47.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*


Parish Recommendations

1. St. Patrick should consider a merger with St. Peter in Stanberry. The merger would allow for the church to continue to be used for Sunday Mass and other liturgical events.
2. The major changes are that all finances will now be shared and there will be one pastoral council and one finance council for both parishes, with representatives from both sites. The Easter Triduum will also be celebrated at one site.

B. St. Peter, Stanberry

Parish Facts

St. Peter, Stanberry

Parish data 	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change 16/17 to 21/22	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	16	10	11	11	8	10	-6	-38%
Youth First Communions	7	13	8	9	5	7	0	0%
Youth Confirmations	0	0	10	0	0	19	19	
Youth Catechumens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adult Catechumens	3	1	2	1	0	1	-2	-67%
Number of Candidates	3	1	1	3	0	1	-2	-67%
Marriages	4	114	4	2	0	1	-3	-75%
Deaths	11	3	4	6	7	7	-4	-36%
Registered Catholic households ¹	154	159	159	151	130	140	-14	-9%
Average Mass attendance	275	259	270	106	202	219	-56	-20%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	62	70	55	61	27	57	-5	-8%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	19	17	0	0	0	0	

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2023 is 148.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Parish Recommendations

1. Accelerate planning to increase the seating capacity at St. Peter Church. The building committee should consider a capacity which would accommodate Mass attendees for two Masses, one on Saturday evening and the other on Sunday morning.
2. Merging St. Patrick in Ford City into St. Peter will streamline the administration of the parishes and prepare for future configuration changes.

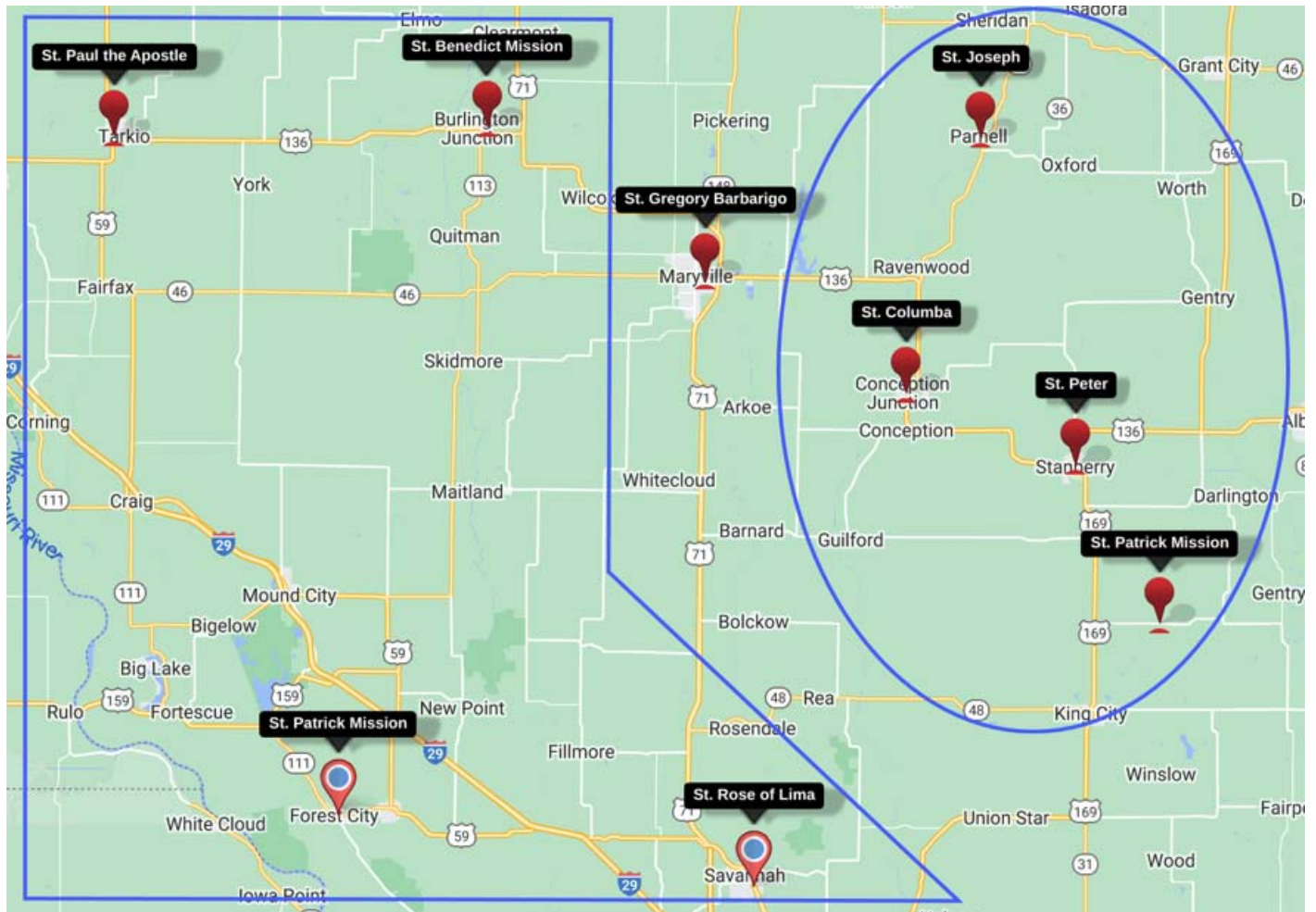
Recommendations for Ministry among the Collaborating Parishes

1. Utilize the resources at Clyde Convent and Conception Abbey for catechesis. Draw upon the expertise of the monks and nuns who are experts in these field. Explore the potential of using their facilities as “neutral” sites. St. Columba will take the lead on this goal.
2. Have a meeting of the four parishes, by August 1, 2023, to discuss, share, and collaborate on ideas and current programs. Establish a means of future communication on a regular basis. Conduct the meetings on an annual basis.

Projected Impact of Recommended Changes

1. The collaborating parishes and mission in Conception Junction, Parnell, Stanberry and Ford City have the growth potential of a community with 524 households, revenues of approximately \$336,000, and the possible reduction from four sites to two.

NEW CONFIGURATION MAP FOR DEANERIES 10/12



VII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PASTORAL PLAN

With the promulgation or approval of the pastoral plan in June of 2023, the implementation will begin. The following groups will play an important role in the full implementation of the pastoral plan.

1. The terms and role of the Deanery Planning Committee representatives who have shaped the pastoral plan end in June of 2023.
2. The parish pastoral council will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the plan on the parish level. In many situations, the responsibility will be shared with other parish pastoral councils.
3. If some parishes decide to share certain ministries, task groups in those areas of ministry may be formed under the oversight of the parish pastoral councils. Councils should help to provide appropriate staff or ministerial leaders to assist in any efforts to develop collaborative ministry.
4. The priest dean shall also set aside time at each deanery meeting to review the progress/lack of progress on the implementation of the plan.
5. The timeline for the implementation of parish designations will be determined by changes in priest assignments, mergers, and other pastoral factors.
6. The implementation of the recommendations for the establishment of mergers and other collaborative configurations rests with the Vicar General for Pastoral Affairs and the pastors assigned to the parishes.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Survey Results – Possibilities for Vibrant Ministry in Deanery 9

Summary Sheet for Possibilities for Vibrant Ministry in Deanery 9			Updated 6-7-23		
Parishes responding: Blessed Sacrament (10), Mary Immaculate (28), Sacred Heart (33), St. Aloysius (15), St. Munchin (42), St. Ann (6), St. Joseph-Trenton (14), IHM (14), St. Joseph-Easton (52)					
<i>(Not all totals match what was reported as being collected. Also, some Sacred Heart surveys were not completed correctly)</i>					
Total Surveys Collected: 214			Number		Percent of Total
	Top (1)	Back-up (2)	Top (1)	Back-up (2)	
1. Parish Organization					
a. Develop strategies to increase parishioner involvement in the mission and ministry of the parishes.	91	33	40%	16%	
b. Consider grouping churches in the various areas of the deanery under the leadership of a pastor to explore ways to share resources and create financial efficiencies.	19	45	8%	22%	
c. Explore the potential for creating staff positions in areas of ministry, such as business manager, religious education director, and youth minister.	4	20	2%	10%	
d. Consider merging and closing those missions and parishes w hich have very small memberships and finances unable to support a full-time priest.	11	25	5%	12%	
e. Create a way to attract retired priests to live in rural areas so that they can provide limited sacramental ministry to the parishes.	49	57	22%	28%	
f. Other - no description given	7	13	3%	6%	
f. Other - return to tradition	1	1	0%	0%	
f. Other - develop incentive plan/system for priests to serve in rural parishes	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - utilize Deacons to lead Mass; w hy are w omen still excluded?	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - More Mass participation; invest in vocations w ith diocesan support	2	0	1%	0%	
f. Other - Let financially sound parishes remain open. Bethany not financially stable-Trenton/Princeton are. Membership at Bethany is low er than Trenton's.	2	0	1%	0%	
f. Other - I've alw ays believed our Church is here for the community.	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - Return to a more traditional style Mass that had a lot of success in the past.	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - Concern about 1 priest spread too thin; have parish administrators	0	2	0%	1%	
f. Other - Find ways to get more men into the priesthood	0	1	0%	0%	
f. Other - w e need our church in Trenton	0	1	0%	0%	
f. Other - Create ways to send an outreach priest to church monthly. Keep a priest in Northern MO and service our mission. Have parish administrators. Move our counties to a new diocese. Count our families w ith St. Joseph and keep us both open.	0	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - Continue sharing a priest from the Abbey; greater presence in Gow er; could the nuns lead a Bible study/partner with nuns	21	0	9%	0%	
f. Other - Develop strategies to capture the large number of young Catholics.	7	2	3%	1%	
f. Other - Better communication betw een church council and parish.	2	0	1%	0%	
f. Other - Merge w ith Seven Dolors; w eekly Masses at Easton; add childrens programs	6	0	3%	0%	
f. Other - Avoid closing St. Joseph-Easton	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - St. Joseph's has alw ays been fiscally responsible.	0	1	0%	0%	
Total	227	201	100%	100%	

Appendix A (continued): Survey Results – Possibilities for Vibrant Ministry Deanery 9

Total Surveys Collected: 214		Number		Percent of Total	
		Top (1)	Back-up (2)	Top (1)	Back-up (2)
2. Worship and Evangelization					
a. Increase preparation for Sunday Masses, especially music, liturgical ministries, along with a basic catechesis on the Eucharist.	33	17	16%	9%	
b. Create a stronger sense of welcome at Sunday Masses using greeters and other welcoming methods.	35	32	17%	17%	
c. Establish teams of parishioners to contact every person on the parish roster as well as former members to listen and invite them to engage in the parish.	48	63	23%	34%	
d. Develop a coordinated effort to reach out to the many self-identifying Catholics who are not registering at parishes as well as those who have no religious connection.	54	67	26%	36%	
e. Other - no description given	1	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - encourage priests to be strongly engaged with their communities (not just Catholics)	1	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - need to look at rules that keep people away	1	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - allow deacons to fulfill jobs so priests are available to keep churches open	0	1	0%	1%	
e. Other - use St. Ann Legion of Mary group to evangelize/educate. Increase Eucharistic Adoration.	0	2	0%	1%	
e. Other - Keep traditional holy Masses; Latin prayers	4	0	2%	0%	
e. Other - just one hour of a priest's time will help our church stay open	1	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - concern about distance to travel to Mass due to roads and price of gas	1	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - have priests direct parish councils	1	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - good holy Catholic priests to lead and guide us spiritually. Sacraments	1	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - Seek and bring priests from other countries. Priests direct parish councils. Support us instead of giving up on us. Have priest actually relate to the evils we see today and the consequences of our sin. Keep a priest at our parish-DO NOT ABANDON US.	0	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - Evangelize/have events in Gow er; involve and work with the Abbey	23	2	11%	1%	
e. Other - Music beautiful/great organist; would like to have choirs again	1	1	0%	1%	
e. Other - Host community events/for non-Catholics as well	0	3	0%	2%	
Total	205	188	100%	100%	
3. Faith Formation, Catholic Schools					
a. Strengthen Parish Schools of Religion for elementary and high school students.	57	28	28%	16%	
b. Develop parish-based adult faith formation opportunities such as Bible study, small faith sharing groups, and spiritual retreats.	61	62	30%	35%	
c. Develop ministries for young adults (20's and 30's) and seniors (60 & over) on a deanery or area basis.	24	39	12%	22%	
d. Promote Catholic schools and explore ways for them to engage with surrounding parishes.	9	21	4%	12%	
e. Reach out to homeschooling families.	10	23	5%	13%	
f. Other - form high school groups by geography for socialization, community activities, etc.	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - coordinate quarterly activity for youth or deanery	0	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - share efforts/resources among cluster parishes via Zoom, livestreaming, etc.	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - offer different services such as Adoration on a routine basis	0	1	0%	1%	
f. Other - LOM/Home school/PSR/Catholic schools - all needed to support family life	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - keep small family parishes open	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - our parish is doing a wonderful job with our youth	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - If we don't have a local church then these Faith Formation items seem mute	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - Invite members of community to convert and enroll members	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - Continue to expand church activities and socials. Diocese to provide opportunities for teens locally-Diocesan led. Religious education for children 5-18 minimum. Keep us open and combine us with Trenton for one priest to hold two Sunday Masses.	0	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - Restart our parish religious education program; invite Gow er and Abbey; nuns could visit our parish	31	2	15%	1%	
f. More collaboration between the Catholic schools and parishes without schools	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Visit homebound - Communion	1	0	0%	0%	
Total	201	176	100%	100%	

Appendix A (continued): Survey Results – Possibilities for Vibrant Ministry in Deanery 9

Total Surveys Collected: 214		Number		Percent of Total	
		Top (1)	Back-up (2)	Top (1)	Back-up (2)
4. Outreach to those in Need					
a. Assess the types of outreach ministries parishes currently provide and those which may be possible if there was an overall area strategy.	88	47	45%	26%	
b. Coordinate outreach ministries on a deanery or area level to maximize their effectiveness.	36	71	18%	39%	
c. Develop a strategy which responds to the level of poverty of those Catholic or not in the deanery.	22	40	11%	22%	
d. Establish a deanery approach to Catholic social justice teachings.	8	17	4%	9%	
e. Other - no description given	3	0	2%	0%	
e. Other - pay our own bills as a rural community	4	0	2%	0%	
e. Other - coordinate with other local agencies/denominations to provide access to services	1	1	1%	1%	
e. Other - reach out to young men	1	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - respond to those who seek help	0	1	0%	1%	
e. Other - LOM/comprehensive support for poor families through parish and Co.	3	0	2%	0%	
e. Other - priests for emergencies	2	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - don't require old parishioners to drive over 15 miles to attend Mass	1	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - Trenton has a 2-year college. NCMC continues to grow & we need to provide a Mass for the Catholic students	1	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - More fundraising for the Life Options Green Hills program	1	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - Give more to local community to let them know we care	1	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - Priests for emergencies located in our counties. Diocese reaches out and provides support to rural areas. Leave a priest in Northern MO and allow us to be a mission of that church, keeping us open.	0	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - Work with area food pantries	5	0	3%	0%	
e. Other - Start a food pantry at church	2	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - Expand our current efforts to help those in need; visit sick/homebound/nursing homes	15	3	8%	2%	
e. Other - We are the Universal Church and people need to know this; founded by Jesus Christ; spread the Word; promote the history of the Church	3	0	2%	0%	
Total	197	180	100%	100%	
5. Community Building and Communications					
a. Establish a committee to seek out, welcome, and invite new area residents.	64	46	32%	26%	
b. Meet with new and old parishioners to invite them to share their gifts and talents and become more involved in the mission of the Church.	50	56	25%	31%	
c. Promote a discipleship-based approach to financial stewardship throughout the deanery.	12	22	6%	12%	
d. Develop a communication strategy for the parishes using new & old technologies to reach all generations.	46	47	23%	26%	
e. Other - open house	0	1	0%	1%	
e. Other - LOM - events at parish for parishioners to build community	2	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - keep a priest in town that has a college with young people	1	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - we've been blessed to have many fine members & priests who have helped invest in our church	1	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - Bring back the fish fry that was open to the community	1	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - Reach out to community for interest in attending; be more welcoming	5	0	3%	0%	
e. Other - Bring back the chicken dinner/annual dinners or events	9	6	5%	3%	
e. Other - Build on our 175 year history of strong relationships/cultures/family ties	3	0	2%	0%	
e. Other - Better ways to communicate; review phone tree, email/social media	6	0	3%	0%	
Total	200	178	100%	100%	

Appendix B: Survey Results – Possibilities for Vibrant Ministry in Deanery 10

					Updated 5-5-23
Parishes responding: St. Gregory Barbarigo (16), St. Peter (104), St. Columba (120), St. Patrick (72),					
St. Joseph (35), St. Benedict (12)					
(Not all totals match what was reported as being collected. Also, 1e and 3e accidentally omitted when St. Columba surveys were distribute					
Total Surveys Collected: 359		Number		Percent of Total	
		Top (1)	Back-up (2)	Top (1)	Back-up (2)
1. Parish Organization					
a. Develop strategies to increase parishioner involvement in the mission and ministry of the parishes.		142	67	44%	22%
b. Consider grouping churches in the various areas of the deanery under the leadership of a pastor to explore ways to share resources and create financial efficiencies.		31	71	10%	24%
c. Explore the potential for creating staff positions in areas of ministry, such as business manager, religious education director, and youth minister.		55	83	17%	28%
d. Consider merging and closing those missions and parishes which have very small memberships and finances unable to support a full-time priest.		34	31	10%	10%
e. Create a way to attract retired priests to live in rural areas so that they can provide limited sacramental ministry to the parishes.		53	43	16%	14%
f. Other - attract more deacons		1	1	0%	0%
f. Other - confirm more priests		1	0	0%	0%
f. Other - no description given		4	0	1%	0%
f. Other - parishes could hire a retired priest for their church		1	1	0%	0%
f. Other - keep our church open with monthly Mass & operate under a hub church such as St. Gregory		1	0	0%	0%
f. Other - continue using St. Ann's altar society to support the church suppers, etc. to provide fellow ship to the parish		1	0	0%	0%
f. Other - utilize live stream of another parish on days we don't have a priest, use deacon & pre-blessed Eucharist		0	1	0%	0%
f. Other - bring back church Bazaar		0	1	0%	0%
Total		324	299	100%	100%
2. Worship and Evangelization					
a. Increase preparation for Sunday Masses, especially music, liturgical ministries, along with a basic catechesis on the Eucharist.		92	43	29%	15%
b. Create a stronger sense of welcome at Sunday Masses using greeters and other welcoming methods.		96	63	31%	22%
c. Establish teams of parishioners to contact every person on the parish roster as well as former members to listen and invite them to engage in the parish.		42	75	13%	26%
d. Develop a coordinated effort to reach out to the many self-identifying Catholics who are not registering at parishes as well as those who have no religious connection.		69	98	22%	35%
e. Other - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd		1	2	0%	1%
e. Other - reach out to parishioners using other mediums		2	0	1%	0%
e. Other - allow younger students to participate in Mass as used to		2	0	1%	0%
e. Other - no change		4	2	1%	1%
e. Other - have lector make announcements to keep parish informed		1	0	0%	0%
e. Other - bring back Saturday Mass		2	0	1%	0%
e. Other - bring back rosary before Mass		1	0	0%	0%
e. Other - no opinion		1	1	0%	0%
Total		313	284	100%	100%

Appendix B (continued): Survey Results – Possibilities for Vibrant Ministry in Deanery 10

Total Surveys Collected: 359		Number		Percent of Total	
		Top (1)	Back-up (2)	Top (1)	Back-up (2)
3. Faith Formation, Catholic Schools					
a. Strengthen Parish Schools of Religion for elementary and high school students.	98	38	32%	13%	
b. Develop parish-based adult faith formation opportunities such as Bible study, small faith sharing groups, and spiritual retreats.	112	92	37%	33%	
c. Develop ministries for young adults (20's and 30's) and seniors (60 & over) on a deanery or area basis.	58	102	19%	36%	
d. Promote Catholic schools and explore ways for them to engage with surrounding parishes.	22	35	7%	12%	
e. Reach out to homeschooling families.	4	11	1%	4%	
f. Other - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - Formation opportunities of 1-2 hours	0	1	0%	0%	
f. Other - no change	4	0	1%	0%	
f. Other - bring back CYO (youth activities)	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - overhaul religious education program	1	0	0%	0%	
f. Other - Knights of Columbus meeting place for men of parish	0	1	0%	0%	
f. No opinion	1	3	0%	1%	
Total	302	283	100%	100%	
4. Outreach to those in Need					
a. Assess the types of outreach ministries parishes currently provide and those which may be possible if there was an overall area strategy.	147	89	50%	31%	
b. Coordinate outreach ministries on a deanery or area level to maximize their effectiveness.	82	129	28%	45%	
c. Develop a strategy which responds to the level of poverty of those Catholic or not in the deanery.	40	44	14%	15%	
d. Establish a deanery approach to Catholic social justice teachings.	21	21	7%	7%	
e. Other - no change	1	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - continue mitten tree ministry at Christmas	1	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - continue care baskets for elderly parishioners	0	1	0%	0%	
e. Other - no opinion	1	2	0%	1%	
e. Other -	0	0	0%	0%	
Total	293	286	100%	100%	
5. Community Building and Communications					
a. Establish a committee to seek out, welcome, and invite new area residents.	91	53	29%	18%	
b. Meet with new and old parishioners to invite them to share their gifts and talents and become more involved in the mission of the Church.	88	111	28%	38%	
c. Promote a discipleship-based approach to financial stewardship throughout the deanery.	20	26	6%	9%	
d. Develop a communication strategy for the parishes using new & old technologies to reach all generations.	107	98	34%	34%	
e. Other - more events like dinners, game nights, bingo, etc.	1	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - no change	3	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - better communication with pastor	4	0	1%	0%	
e. Other - use Flocknote (outreach to active and inactive members) notifications	2	1	1%	0%	
e. Other - again offer Bible school to all children in area	1	0	0%	0%	
e. Other - offer more at Pnell Duck Days, Ravenwood festival and Grant city events	0	1	0%	0%	
e. Other - have a carnival with bounce house for kids and live band for adults	0	1	0%	0%	
Total	317	291	100%	100%	

Appendix C: Survey Results – Possibilities for Vibrant Ministry in partial Deanery 12

Parishes responding: St. Rose of Lima (27), St. Patrick-Forest City (14), Seven Dolors (19)			Updated 5-5-23	
<i>(Not all totals match what was reported as being collected.)</i>				
Total Surveys Collected: 60				
	Number		Percent of Total	
	Top (1)	Back-up (2)	Top (1)	Back-up (2)
1. Parish Organization				
a. Develop strategies to increase parishioner involvement in the mission and ministry of the parishes.	29	6	44%	12%
b. Consider grouping churches in the various areas of the deanery under the leadership of a pastor to explore ways to share resources and create financial efficiencies.	7	14	11%	27%
c. Explore the potential for creating staff positions in areas of ministry, such as business manager, religious education director, and youth minister.	1	5	2%	10%
d. Consider merging and closing those missions and parishes which have very small memberships and finances unable to support a full-time priest.	1	7	2%	14%
e. Create a way to attract retired priests to live in rural areas so that they can provide limited sacramental ministry to the parishes.	8	11	12%	22%
f. Other - no description given	12	0	18%	0%
f. Other - have Mass at Seven Dolors one week and Easton the next week	1	0	2%	0%
f. Other - separate cemetery property from Seven Dolors property	7	8	11%	16%
f. Other -	0	0	0%	0%
Total	66	51	100%	100%
2. Worship and Evangelization				
a. Increase preparation for Sunday Masses, especially music, liturgical ministries, along with a basic catechesis on the Eucharist.	9	9	20%	24%
b. Create a stronger sense of welcome at Sunday Masses using greeters and other welcoming methods.	12	4	26%	11%
c. Establish teams of parishioners to contact every person on the parish roster as well as former members to listen and invite them to engage in the parish.	10	12	22%	32%
d. Develop a coordinated effort to reach out to the many self-identifying Catholics who are not registering at parishes as well as those who have no religious connection.	12	10	26%	26%
e. Other - create family-oriented small faith groups	1	0	2%	0%
e. Other - more public restrooms, Marian processions/Eucharistic processions	0	1	0%	3%
e. Other - arrange schedule to accommodate young families & keep traditions	0	1	0%	3%
e. Other - create an atmosphere of welcoming instead of "being an outsider" if not regular	0	1	0%	3%
e. Other - have one Mass on Sunday at Seven Dolors	2	0	4%	0%
Total	46	38	100%	100%
3. Faith Formation, Catholic Schools				
a. Strengthen Parish Schools of Religion for elementary and high school students.	18	6	50%	17%
b. Develop parish-based adult faith formation opportunities such as Bible study, small faith sharing groups, and spiritual retreats.	9	12	25%	34%
c. Develop ministries for young adults (20's and 30's) and seniors (60 & over) on a deanery or area basis.	4	9	11%	26%
d. Promote Catholic schools and explore ways for them to engage with surrounding parishes.	2	5	6%	14%
e. Reach out to homeschooling families.	2	2	6%	6%
f. Other - start deanery-wide Eucharistic Adoration	0	1	0%	3%
f. Other - some young families do homeschool with religion	1	0	3%	0%
f. Other -	0	0	0%	0%
f. Other -	0	0	0%	0%
Total	36	35	100%	100%

Appendix C (continued): Survey Results – Possibilities for Vibrant Ministry in partial Deanery 12

	Number		Percent of Total	
	Top (1)	Back-up (2)	Top (1)	Back-up (2)
4. Outreach to those in Need				
a. Assess the types of outreach ministries parishes currently provide and those which may be possible if there was an overall area strategy.	24	5	51%	14%
b. Coordinate outreach ministries on a deanery or area level to maximize their effectiveness.	6	21	13%	60%
c. Develop a strategy which responds to the level of poverty of those Catholic or not in the deanery.	7	5	15%	14%
d. Establish a deanery approach to Catholic social justice teachings.	5	4	11%	11%
e. Other - have Catholic Charities drive this with county resources	1	0	2%	0%
e. Other - \$200/month to Living Hope Food Pantry	4	0	9%	0%
e. Other -	0	0	0%	0%
e. Other -	0	0	0%	0%
e. Other -	0	0	0%	0%
Total	47	35	100%	100%
5. Community Building and Communications				
a. Establish a committee to seek out, welcome, and invite new area residents.	15	9	35%	21%
b. Meet with new and old parishioners to invite them to share their gifts and talents and become more involved in the mission of the Church.	15	20	35%	48%
c. Promote a discipleship-based approach to financial stewardship throughout the deanery.	0	3	0%	7%
d. Develop a communication strategy for the parishes using new & old technologies to reach all generations.	12	10	28%	24%
e. Other - provide early morning Sunday Mass with coffee & donuts after	1	0	2%	0%
e. Other -	0	0	0%	0%
e. Other -	0	0	0%	0%
e. Other -	0	0	0%	0%
e. Other -	0	0	0%	0%
Total	43	42	100%	100%

Appendix D: Worksheet

Worksheet for _____ Parish

Parishes may find this worksheet helpful as they move towards a greater vitality. The hope is that every parish will thrive. When the level of participation falls too low, as measured by variables such as sacramental activity, financial contributions, and so forth, the parish can no longer effectively serve the needs of its parishioners. In the spirit of fairness to God's people and good stewardship, parishes that can no longer meet these needs should be closed and the care of their parishioners should be assumed by other parishes.

The worksheet serves as a "dashboard" or "monitor" for parish efforts and progress. Progress/lack of progress will be reviewed on an annual basis – April to April – and a determination will be made regarding future status. Parishes are already aware of their future options as outlined in the Pastoral Plan.

PARISH DATA CATEGORY	APRIL 2023	APRIL 2024	APRIL 2025
Average Mass Attendance			
Infant/Children Baptisms			
First Communions			
Confirmations			
Adults Received into the Catholic Faith			
Adult Initiation			
Marriages			
Funerals			
Registered Members			
Grades K-8 Parish School of Religion Enrollment			
Grades 9-12 Parish School of Religion Enrollment			
Contributions (Envelope and Basket)			
Number of Donors			
Total Income			
Total Expenses			