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NEWS RELEASE

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Diocese of Syracuse Announced Diocesan Reconfiguration Decisions

The Diocese of Syracuse announced the decisions of its pastoral planning process affecting parishes in every region of the diocese. The decisions were made public through a series of regional meetings held first with priests, followed by press briefings with members of the media. The meetings were held on April 21, April 28, May 2, May 3, May 9 and May 10, 2007. The first two meetings concerned decisions affecting parishes in 2007 in the Eastern, Western and Northern regions of the diocese. The remaining four meetings provided information on changes that will occur in the future (2008 and Beyond) based primarily on personnel changes. Below are portions of the press releases and the complete listing of the decisions in chronological and regional order.

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"After a very lengthy consultative process beginning at the local level and concluding with the College of Consultors*, we have reached what we believe to be the best decisions possible in light of the current challenges," said Bishop James M. Moynihan.

In 2001, Bishop Moynihan wrote a Pastoral Letter to the people of the diocese entitled, *Equipping the Saints for the Work of Ministry*. In that letter, he emphasized the pressing need to accelerate pastoral planning in our diocese in light of the various issues facing the diocese, including sweeping demographic changes and limited human and financial resources. A process was outlined in which all parishes were encouraged to work with their neighboring parishes (PCAs) to respond to the challenges in a way that will ensure full and vibrant parish life. People across the diocese-- religious and lay, men and women-- worked collaboratively and creatively to propose ways to meet the spiritual needs of their communities.

At Thanksgiving, Pastoral Care Areas presented their plans to Bishop Moynihan for his consideration. Over the course of 4 months, all plans underwent a lengthy review and analysis as well as an evaluation of current sacramental, financial and demographic information.

“Now is the time to bring their hard work to fruition,” said Moynihan. “I know some of today’s announcements will deeply affect the people of this diocese. This region, like all of our regions, has a rich history of faithful people who cherish the memories that are found in their parishes. I also know that as a people of faith they too realize we cannot ignore the challenges before us. We must be open to the Holy Spirit and do what we are all called to do in order to strengthen our church for tomorrow.”

The **2007** decisions for the **Eastern Region** are as follows:

- St. Patrick Mission, Williamstown will formally close as of August 16, 2007. It has not been active since 2005.
- St. Ann Mission, Glenmore will close as of August 16, 2007.
- St. Mary Mission, North Brookfield will close as of August 16, 2007
- St. George Church, Utica will close, effective August 16, 2007
- St. Joan of Arc Church, Morrisville will become a mission of St. Mary Church in Hamilton, effective August 16, 2007.
- St. Leo Church in Holland Patent and St. Ann Church in Hinckley will merge into one site.
- St. Anthony Church and St. Agnes Church in Utica will collaborate to provide a plan for merger.
- Our Lady of Lourdes, Utica and Our Lady of the Rosary, New Hartford will dialogue about a possible future relationship in meeting the spiritual needs of their faith communities.
- St. Mary of the Assumption and St. Peter in Rome, which are presently linked, will begin the process to merge.

The **2007** decisions for the **Western/Northern Region** of the diocese are as follows:

- St. Leo Church in Tully, St. Joseph Church in Lafayette, and Immaculate Conception Church in Pompey will merge to become one parish. They are directed to present a plan for the site of that parish and its Church by July 1, 2008.
- The care of St. Patrick Mission in Otisco will be committed to the care of Corpus Christi Church in South Onondaga on August 16, 2007.
- St. Peter Mission in Split Rock will close on August 16, 2007. The care of St. Peter Mission's territory and people remain committed to St. Michael's Church on Onondaga Hill.
- St. Stephen Church in Syracuse will close on August 16, 2007. The care of St. Stephen's people will remain committed to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Syracuse.
- St. Agnes Church, Brewerton, St. Michael Church, Central Square, St. Mary Church, Cleveland, and St. Bernadette Mission, Constantia will begin a facilitated conversation leading to plans for a merger and a new Church to serve this rapidly growing area.
- St. Ann Church, Syracuse and St. Charles Borromeo Church will be linked on August 16, 2007.
- St. Peter Church in Syracuse will merge into Our Lady of Pompei Church in Syracuse ending the current linkage.
- St. John the Evangelist Church in Syracuse will become a mission of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse.
- St. John the Baptist Church and Holy Trinity Church in Syracuse will merge ending their current linkage.
- St. Andrew Church, Syracuse and St. Lucy Church will merge ending their current linkage.
- St. Therese Church, Syracuse and Our Lady of Solace Church, Syracuse will merge ending their current linkage.
- St. Mary Mission in Jamesville will close on July 1, 2007. The care for its area and people will be entrusted to Holy Cross Church in DeWitt.
- Immaculate Conception Church in Fulton and Holy Family/ St. Michael's Church in Fulton will formally merge. The church communities will become one religious corporation and select one permanent site.

The **2008 and Beyond** decisions for the **Southern Region** of the diocese are as follows:

- St. Casimir Church and St. Joseph Church, Endicott will merge upon the retirement of the current pastor of St. Casimir.
- Christ the King Church, Endwell and Our Lady of Angels, Endwell will merge. Upon the retirement of the pastor of Our Lady of Angels or the pastor of Christ the King, a new pastor will be appointed with the understanding that upon the retirement of the remaining pastor the two churches will merge.
- St. Ambrose in Endicott will be linked with Most Holy Rosary Church in Maine upon the retirement of either pastor.
- St. Andrew Church and St. John the Evangelist Church in Binghamton will merge in 2008.
- Blessed Sacrament Church in Johnson City and St. Vincent de Paul Church in Vestal will be linked in 2008.
- St. Thomas Church and St. Patrick Church in Binghamton will be linked on July 1, 2008. In 2007, St. Thomas Church will receive a temporary administrator, who shall work with the pastor of St. Patrick Church to establish, by March 1, 2008 the method of linkage.
- St. Catherine of Siena Church and St. Christopher Church in Binghamton will merge in 2008.
- St. Mary of the Assumption Church and St. Paul's Church in Binghamton will be linked in 2008.
- St. Mary of Kirkwood, St. Joseph Church in Deposit, Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Windsor and St. Joseph Church in Sanitaria Springs shall provide the bishop with a method to activate their plan of having two priests serve their communities. The plan should be submitted before July 1, 2008.
- The plans for the parishes of Chenango County: St. Theresa, New Berlin, St. Bartholomew, St. Paul, Norwich, St. John Bainbridge, St. Agnes Mission, Afton, St. Malachy, Sherburne, Immaculate Conception, Greene, St. Joseph Oxford will be announced at a later date after interdiocesan dialogue is completed.
- Parishes presently unchanged which may be involved in future collaborations are: St. James Church in Johnson City, Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Vestal, St. Anthony Church in Endicott, and Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Endicott

The **2008 and Beyond** decisions for the **Western Region** of the diocese are as follows:

Cortland County and Whitney Point

- The parishes and missions of Cortland County together with St. Patrick's in Whitney Point will have a diocesan facilitated conversation about their future with the ministry of three priests. The Cortland County parishes and missions are:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cincinnatus

St. Anthony of Padua Church, Cortland

St. Lawrence Mission, DeRuyter

St. Margaret Church, Homer

St. Mary Church, Cortland

St. Patrick Church, Truxton

St. Stephen Church, Marathon

O'Heron Newman Hall at SUNY Cortland

Onondaga County

- Upon a change in pastors at either St. Mary Church in Skaneateles or St. Patrick in Jordon, the parish in Jordon will become a mission of St. Mary Church.
- Upon the retirement of the current priest in residence, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Warners will close. Its people and territory will be entrusted to the pastor of St. Joseph Church in Camillus.
- Upon the retirement of the current pastor of St. Brigid-St. Joseph Parish, Syracuse, the parish will merge with St. Patrick Church, Syracuse.
- Upon a pastor change at either St. Cecilia Church in Solvay or Our Lady of Peace Church in Lakeland these two parishes will be linked with one pastor.
- When the pastor of either Immaculate Heart of Mary Church or St. Joseph the Worker Church, Liverpool retires, a new pastor will be appointed to the open pastorate. Upon the retirement of the remaining pastor, these parishes will be linked.
- The parishes of St. Stephen Church, Phoenix, St. John Church and Christ the King Church in Liverpool will enter a facilitated conversation to study the changing demographics of their area and recommend pastoral strategies for the future.
- Upon a change in either pastor, St. Mary Church, Baldwinsville and St. Augustine Church in Baldwinsville will be linked.

- Upon a change in either pastor/administrator, the parishes of St. Vincent de Paul and Transfiguration in Syracuse will merge.
- The parishes of St. James, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Anthony of Padua in Syracuse will continue their dialogue by making recommendations to the bishop on how to implement their plan to serve the area with one pastor at one site.
- Parishes presently unchanged which may be involved in future collaborations are: Holy Family Fairmont, St. Rose of Lima in North Syracuse, Assumption Conventual Church in Syracuse, Most Holy Rosary Church in Syracuse, Blessed Sacrament Church in Syracuse, St. Matthews Church in East Syracuse, St. Daniel Church in Lyncourt, St. Mary in Minoa and St. Francis in Bridgeport, St. Ann in Manlius, St. James in Cazenovia, Immaculate Conception in Fayetteville, St. Francis Xavier in Marcellus and St. Patrick Church in Chittenango, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Baldwinsville.

The **2008 and Beyond** announcements for the **Northern Region** of the diocese are:

City Of Oswego

- St. Paul Church in Oswego, which will have a newly appointed pastor in 2007, will be entrusted with the sacramental ministry at Hall Newman Center in 2008.
- St. Peter Church and its mission at Sacred Heart in Scriba will close upon the retirement of the current administrator of St. Peter Church. At that time, the people of these churches will be asked to join the community at St. Paul's.
- St. Joseph and St. Stephen's Church will be linked upon the completion of the term of the current pastor of St. Joseph's in 2008.
- St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Oswego shall be entrusted with the care of Our Lady of the Rosary **Mission** in Hannibal in 2008. (See Hannibal)

Hannibal

- Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Hannibal, which is currently being served by the pastor of St. Stephen Church in Oswego, will become a mission and its care entrusted to St. Mary of the Assumption, Oswego in 2008.

Minetto

- Upon the retirement of the current pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Minetto, the parish will be closed and the care of its community and people will be entrusted to the pastor of St. Joseph in Oswego.

Mexico & Pulaski

- Upon the next opening in the pastorate of either St. Anne, Mother of Mary in Mexico or Christ Our Light in Pulaski, the parishes will be linked.

The **2008 and Beyond** decisions for the **Eastern Region** of the diocese are as follows:

- Upon the retirement of the pastor of St. John's Church in North Bay, St. John's will be closed. The parish will continue at St. Mary of the Lake Mission, Verona Beach.
- St. Mary of the Lake Mission will be entrusted to the care of St. Agatha Church in Canastota.
- Upon a change in pastor, St. John the Baptist and Transfiguration Churches in Rome will merge.
- The parishes of St. Paul Church in Rome, St. Joseph Church in Lee Center, St. Patrick Church in Taberg and St. John Church in Camden will have a facilitated conversation about their future.
- At the conclusion of the terms of their pastors in 2008, St. Patrick Church and St. Joseph Church in Oneida will be linked.
- Upon the retirement of the administrator of St. Francis in Durhamville and St. Theresa in Munnsville these parishes will be closed. The care of the people and the territory will be entrusted to the pastor serving the Oneida Catholic Community.
- Upon the retirement of the pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Verona, the parish will be closed. The care of its people and territory will be entrusted to the pastor of Holy Family in Vernon.
- Upon the end of the term of the pastor of St. Helena in Sherill this parish will be linked with the parish of Holy Family in Vernon.
- Upon the retirement of the pastor of St. Joseph in Oriskany Falls, the parish will be linked with St. Bernard's in Waterville.
- St. Peter and St. Mark parishes in North Utica will enter a facilitated conversation to develop collaborative ministries in their area.
- Holy Trinity, Historic St. John, and St. Joseph-St. Patrick Churches in Utica will enter a facilitated dialogue to explore and create collaborative urban ministries in the areas served by their parishes.

- Upon the retirement of the pastor, St. Stanislaus Church in Utica will close. The care of its people and ministries will be entrusted to the pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Utica.
- Upon a change in the pastorate of St. Stephen in Oriskany, the parish will close. The care of its people and ministries will be entrusted to the pastor of St. Paul Church in Whitesboro.
- Upon the retirement of the pastor of St. Anthony Church in Chadwick's, St. Anthony and St. Patrick Church in Clayville will merge.
- Upon a change in pastors at Annunciation Clark Mills or St. Thomas New Hartford, these parishes will be linked.
- Any future collaboration by these parishes remains to be determined: St. John Church in New Hartford, Mount Carmel-Blessed Sacrament Church in Utica, and St. Mary Clinton with its entrusted campus ministry at Hamilton College.

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- *See attached for the list of the College of Consultors*
- *See attached Glossary of Terms*