

Notes to Accompany Announcement of Parishes Within Each Region

Oratory – An oratory is a church building that is not used for weekend Mass, but is available for feast day celebrations, weddings, funerals, and other prayer opportunities as determined by the local Pastor.

Collaborative Unit – A collaborative unit is two or more parishes that would continue as separate parishes with one priest serving as Pastor of the parishes.

Priest in Specialized Ministry – A priest in specialized ministry refers to a priest working full time in education, hospital chaplaincy, or other ministry who regularly presides at the Sacramental celebrations of a particular parish community. This term can also include a senior priest who agrees to regularly preside at the Sacramental celebrations of a particular parish community.

Pastor/Parochial Vicar Recommendations – The recommendations for a Pastor/Parochial Vicar in some regions envisions having an experienced Priest as Pastor of one, two, or more parishes within the region along with the assistance of another priest as Parochial Vicar. This would allow for our recently ordained priests to work under the mentorship of an experienced Pastor for an extended period of time before becoming a Pastor himself. Final determination of the parishes and priests that would be involved in this set up will be determined by the Bishop with the assistance of the Priests Personnel Board.

Parish Leader Recommendations – The parishes and regions recommended to be served by a Parish Leader will be decided during implementation by the Bishop with the assistance of the Priest Personnel Board and the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Timeline

The plan for regionalization will be implemented by each region as soon as possible, and no later than July 1st, 2020. Full implementation in the region will include:

- Priests will be limited to 3 regularly scheduled weekend Masses, including the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses.
- The number of weekend Masses in the region will equal the number in the plan and specific schedules will be determined in collaboration with all the parishes in the region.
- Regions will determine daily Mass and Holy Day schedules in collaboration with all the parishes in the region.
- Regions will have a concrete plan for, and actively working toward, collaboration in staff and ministry efforts.
- Regions will have a concrete plan for, and actively working toward, new evangelization initiatives in the region.

The process for implementation within each region will be directed by the Deans with support and assistance from the Office of the Vicar for Clergy and the Office of Evangelization and Pastoral Planning.

The Office of Evangelization and Pastoral Planning will monitor the implementation. One year after implementation, there will be an evaluation of each region.