

Please complete one report for every recommended parish reconfiguration in the deanery including the one priest-one parish model if that model is being recommended.

Planning Recommendations Supporting the Reconfigured Parish

List the parishes (name and city) included in this recommended reconfiguration.

SACRED HEART CHURCH, CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY
OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL-FATIMA, CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY

What model is being recommended for these parishes?

CLUSTER

Signature of the Dean

Date

Priest Personnel Recommendations

Please give a number where appropriate.

- a. 1 In addition to the pastor, how many **other full time** priests will be needed to staff the reconfigured parish? Other full time priests may be drawn from religious orders, the international priests, or extern priests). Explain.

With the Cluster model, we expect the 2 current pastors of Sacred Heart and OLMC/F to work through the transition as pastors and leaders in each location. (1 Bilingual-Eng/Sp)

- b. 1 How many **part time** priests will be needed to assist in staffing the reconfigured parish? Part time priests may be drawn from religious orders, international priests, senior or retired priests or extern priests). Explain.

Holy Name Parish, Camden (Jesuit Order) has indicated a willingness to supplement (as needed) especially in areas where a Spanish speaking priest is needed. This position should be Bilingual (Eng/SP)

- c. How many masses are likely to be celebrated each weekend in this new configuration and where?

2 at Sacred Heart on Sunday

2 at OLMC/Fatima (1 in English & 1 in Spanish)

1 Saturday Eve (1x a month) for intercultural exchange. Mass in Spanish, preferably at SH

- d. Give additional explanation if needed.

The declared mission of Sacred Heart is that 'Liturgy leads to Justice'.

The well planned, vibrant and reverent Liturgy evokes full participation of those who attend which in turn creates and nurtures the ongoing ministry outreach to the neighborhood.

Those who come from outside the geographical parish to take part in the Liturgy also experience, through their prayer and action, blessing and an invitation to become part of the healing work in Camden.

This is consistent with choosing the Preferential Option for the Poor.

Ministry Positions: (Deacon, Religious, Lay)

The following positions require professional ministers who are competent, trained, degreed and/or certified. These salaried positions require job descriptions, verifiable qualifications and credentials. Some ministry positions may be combined. Sharing of ministerial personnel and costs can lead to dynamic parish life through a better use of resources and an expansion of pastoral ministries. See Description of Ministry Roles in the accompanying directions.

Please circle whether this position is projected to be FT, PT, and /or shared with another parish.

| | | | |
|--|----|----|---|
| Pastoral Associate(s) | FT | PT | Shared with <u>(OLMC/Fatima)</u> |
| Director(s) of Parish Life* | FT | PT | Shared with _____ |
| Parish Catechetical Leader | | | |
| • Director of Religious Education (DRE) | FT | PT | Shared with _____ |
| • Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE) | FT | PT | Shared with <u>(OLMC/Fatima)</u> |
| Youth Ministry Leader *future need and goals for this position-see attached sheet | FT | PT | Shared with <u>both Parishes/Region/ South Camden</u> |
| Liturgy Coordinator / Director of Music *At present the Music ministry budget is shared by 4 PT ministers The Director of Music is filled by Volunteer | FT | PT | Shared with _____ |
| Parish Business Administrator *Future position to be considered as needed; either PT consultant or on site position | FT | PT | Shared with <u>OLMC/F</u> |

Other Parish Staffing

- a. Support Staff (List positions) Shared with _____
- 1) Administrative Assistant FT
 - 2) Office Secretary PT
 - 3) Housekeeper PT
- b. Maintenance Staff (List positions) Shared with OLMC/F
- 1) Plant Maintenance FT
- c. Other (List positions) FT PT Shared with _____
- *see attached list of active ministries with volunteer coordinators on pages 8-11**

**Director of Parish Life: This position is only appropriate for a parish using the "Director of Parish Life Model". The other parish models would not have a Director of Parish Life.*

Parish Outreach to Diverse Catholic Cultures

Please list any growing ethnic faith communities who look to the Catholic parishes involved in this reconfiguration to address their spiritual needs for worship, sacramental life and ministry. If there are none please indicate that.

Sacred Heart is open and inviting to members of all ethnic and culturally diverse groups. Members of the African American, Latino and Vietnamese Communities regularly attend weekday and Sunday Mass.

- a. How are these spiritual needs for worship, sacramental life and ministry presently being met in the parishes involved?

Sacred Heart has strong participation from ethnic groups in its Liturgies. This includes African American, Vietnamese, and Latino. Participation includes bi-lingual Readers, servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Children's Liturgy. Seasonally all-encompassing multi-cultural liturgical celebrations are held.

- b. How many representatives of these ethnic communities are already serving on the the following existing parish bodies?

 3 Parish Council

 1 Finance Council

 1 Trustees

- c. How have these ethnic communities been included in the parish planning process to address their needs?

**In addition to representation on Parish Planning Committee:
-Representation on the Parish Pastoral Council
- Substantial Participation in the Parish Synod of 2005**

Finance Recommendations

Please remember that parishes which merge take on both the assets and liabilities of the existing parishes from which they are formed.

- a. Describe how the recommended reconfigured parish will pay its indebtedness, if any. Indebtedness includes diocesan loans or unpaid assessments if such exist.

N/A-Sacred Heart

- b. Describe the means to be used in order to achieve and continue financial solvency in order to provide the ministries that are needed for a dynamic parish.

-Sacred Heart has been successful in establishing a strong regional and national network of support outside the parish which is available to support and expand the ministries of Sacred Heart Parish whenever it is called upon.

-fund raising events for various ministry needs

-ongoing outreach to suburban supporters

-possible twinning with a suburban parish which would help our efforts and at the same time would provide opportunities for the twin Parish members and families to directly engage in the ministry efforts supporting the Camden residents, once again re-enforcing the Preferential option for the Poor.

Facilities Recommendations

Since data has not been provided through a professional buildings assessment, please give the best educated and reasonable response to the following questions.

- a. Describe which church building(s) will be used for worship.

Sacred Heart Church

Our Lady of Mt Carmel-Fatima Church

- b. Will the facility meet the projected needs of the worshipping community for the next 10 to 15 years?

YES

- c. Does the newly reconfigured parish have land or buildings that could be used or sold? Explain.

NO, all facilities are being used at this time.

- d. Describe the proposed use or disposition of all other buildings.

church(s) **no other church**

parish hall(s) **remain as is- being used as principle meeting hall for parish functions**

rectory(s) **remain as is-with possible conversion of one rectory to be an office center serving both.**

school building(s) **remain as is**

convent(s) - **being used as Center for the Transformation of people engaged in works of justice in South Camden**

other(s) **old convent on Broadway being used by College Graduates affiliated with "Simple Way". These are young adults who live and engage in ministry in the neighborhood.**

- e. Describe any additional debt likely to be incurred through needed renovations or new buildings.

None foreseen at this time

Rationale for Proposed Parish Reconfiguration Recommendations

Please answer the following questions clearly and briefly.

- a. What are the primary advantages of these recommendations for the reconfigured parish?

Sacred Heart will be able to remain a strong, vibrant parish in the South Camden Neighborhood through its existing wide support base while extending and sharing efforts of ministry with OLMC/Fatima and its associated support base.

In conjunction with OLMC/F we will be able to expand and continue efforts to remediate the environmental injustice issues which are so prevalent and crucial to address in the Waterfront South area where families reside.

Opportunities to strengthen social ministry outreach through co-operation

Growth and expansion of Cultural awareness and joining of Cultural worship experiences.

- b. What are the primary limitations of these recommendations?

Losing one pastor through the transition

- c. Describe any conditions or unsettled factors that could impede or derail these planning recommendations for this parish reconfiguration in the deanery from going forward.

Other than the need to adjust to changing schedules necessitated by the sharing of liturgies, staff and ministries, we see no serious negative factors that would prevent this reconfiguration from going forward.

Listing of Active Ministries- attachment to Planning Report
SACRED HEART PARISH CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY

As stated in the document ‘The Preferential Option for the Poor’:

"When we draw near to the poor in order to accompany them and serve them, we are doing what Christ taught us to do when he became our brother, poor like us. Hence service to the poor is the privilege, though not the exclusive, gauge of our following of Christ."

The whole church must choose that option. Located in the community of Waterfront South, in the community of South Camden, we at Sacred Heart have no other option. It is not only a poor community, but one which has been asked to carry a totally unfair load of the burdens of the larger community, Camden County, the State of New Jersey and the Delaware Valley region. For many years public policy and public decision making has chosen Camden, and especially Waterfront South as the place in which to dump those facilities and industries which were not welcome and which would not be accepted anywhere else. It was then, and remains, a case of rank social and environmental injustice, possibly the worst in the nation. This was done because the once proud neighborhood had become poor and minority occupied. The quality of the lives of the residents, especially in the areas of health and economic opportunity, has been seriously damaged by these policies. Sacred Heart Church, in cooperation with Camden Churches Organized for People and local citizen organizations, has worked for many years to correct the environmental injustices associated with these problems. Neighborhood plans have been prepared that show the possibility of a vibrant neighborhood associated with the wonderful Delaware riverfront and concessions have been won from the City and State in the form of host benefits and access to the river and a fishing pier for local residents. The Heart of Camden is presently implementing a major environmental mitigation project funded by a grant from the State and City.

We believe the whole Church in the Diocese of Camden has the responsibility to accept this same option, with the intention to help supply the resources that will allow an appropriate and ongoing response.

In response to the call of Jesus Christ and the Vatican Council's call to be the Church in the Modern World, Sacred Heart Church has built a model of a Eucharistic-Centered Community that strives to respond to this call and to answer this need. A variety of ministries have been established to meet specific needs and the overall need in general. We see the ministries, not just as a means to try respond to needs, but just as importantly, as a means of transformation of those who have chosen to make Sacred Heart the center of their spiritual lives and to participate in these ministries.

With the Eucharist as the central reality from which all parish ministries flow and take their meaning, the following ministries have become a living reality:

1. The Liturgy Ministry. A Liturgy committee was established over 30 years ago and worked for several years to build a Eucharistic Liturgy that would mirror the message of Christ: welcoming, nourishing, transforming, vibrant, and with a message of concern for justice and peace. Since that time the committee has met faithfully every month to plan the parish liturgy, especially the major feasts, with great attention to meaning and detail.

From the Liturgy has sprung a number of liturgical and spiritual development services, such as an annual Lenten series on the Fridays in Lent, Prayer Around the Cross, Chanted Vespers on during Advent & Lent, and Morning Prayer at The Hearts Core 5 days a week in the neighborhood.

2. Through the St. Vincent De Paul Society, which has survived and remained active in the parish since 1913, a number of outreach ministries to the community are present:

- Dinner at Joes Place on Broadway provides dinner for the needy twice monthly and on major feast and special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, These dinners serve over 100 people.
- Distribution of a full bag of essential groceries to 150 households on the last Saturday of each month, preceded by a prayer service conducted by the recipients. This unique distribution of food has developed into a Ritual of Prayer and Thanksgiving by the donators and the receiving people instead of just a mechanical giving of necessities.
- A Sunday morning hot breakfast available to the children of the neighborhood
- Over 1000 baskets of food, with a turkey, distributed to the homes of the families by hundreds of volunteers on the Saturday before Christmas.
- A toy store conducted by volunteers and paid neighborhood residents for neighborhood parents, selling toys at minimal price to enable the families to experience the dignity of purchase and choice at minimal cost for over 1600 children during the pre-Christmas season.
- A Thrift Store for children's clothing open every Saturday on Broadway for neighborhood parents. Making diapers available at a lower price and providing good used clothing for growing children.
- A ministry to prisoners in Camden prisons.

3. The Heart of Camden, a 501(c)(3) independent non-profit organization, established by Sacred Heart Church 23 years ago, that purchases and rehabilitates vacant houses for sale to low income homeowners. To date 170 houses have been restored and 14 are being worked on at present.

4. A Medical clinic, operated from the original Sacred Heart Convent, open once weekly, to serve the needs of the medically uninsured, in which a Cardiologist, a General Practitioner, a Gynecologist and a Pediatrician provide their services free of charge. Prescriptions are funded by various fundraising activities.

5. The Heart's Core, a small intentional community on Jasper Street, intended to be an outreach community to the women of the streets, providing meals for them and this summer bottles of water will be distributed on hot summer days. Each day Morning Prayer is held. .

6. The Friday Night Community, a gathering of people for the clarification of ideas and sharing of vital spiritual information, meeting every twice monthly at Sacred Heart Cafeteria. The sharing of a simple meal of soup with bread and presentations of Spiritual Topics which advance our growth as Community.

7. A Peace Community, which meets regularly to explore alternatives to military solutions and provide opportunities to promote peace in the community and in the world. An annual all-day conference is held to discuss issues related to peaceful existence in the world. This group promotes education on the option for conscience objection, as affirmed by Vatican II.

8. A Ministry of the Arts, which comprises of a growing **theater group** - which has now staged several plays in the community - and has plans to renovate or build a theater in the neighborhood. The School Children have participated in this effort as well.

-a **wall mural**, measuring approximately 20X60 feet, has been painted by a mural artist with local children and volunteers. Within the mural are seen faces of children, Mother Teresa and our own Sister Peg Hynes.

-**Hearts and Hands Fall Festival** annually, including crafts, music, and activities for children and dancing on Jasper Street.

-**Christmas Fair** on the First Sunday of Advent called A Fair of the Heart, which sells all home made crafts made by the parishioners of Sacred Heart, the proceeds of which benefit the Health Clinic.

9. Eve's Garden, an agriculturally based environmental project, initiated by a graduate student living in the neighborhood, to teach neighborhood children and children attending Sacred Heart School, how to plant and grow a variety of vegetables for local consumption. Already a 50X25 foot greenhouse has been erected and a garden has been established, from which at least one season of vegetable crops have been harvested. Potatoes were planted just this week.

10. Community House, a community of graduate students from several colleges that have chosen to live and work in the Neighborhood in response to the needs that have been articulated.

11. The Seafarers Center, located at the South Jersey Port, established by Sacred Heart Church as part of the Apostleship of the Sea, to provide a place where merchant seamen can go and have their spiritual needs met, attend Mass and receive the Sacraments.

12. The Hynes Center, a neighborhood Community Center renovated from a vacant corner bar, and named for Sr. Peg Hynes, who was chiefly responsible for developing the Heart of Camden. The Hynes Center provides activities for neighborhood families and children, such as after school programs, girl scouts, karate training and computer training.

13. Sacred Heart School, a Catholic School, educating children from the South Camden community from Kindergarten to eighth grade, is funded by tuition from the families as they can afford, and supplemented by a system of sponsors from the region and nationally. The school has been in existence for **86 years** and is the choice of many non-Catholic parents who want a safe and religion based quality education for their children. The School provides opportunities for ministry in areas of tutoring, sports, theater, arts and fund raising for the children.

14. Family Fishing Pier and River Lookout Point -Sacred Heart Church has successfully advocated for, plan and realize the development of a fishing pier at the Jackson Street conjunction with the Delaware River. Here local residents have access to the river along with the view and open air space provides, and they can fish in safety.

15. Ministry for Neighborhood Employment- Sacred Heart at the present employs 10 neighborhood people and will continue to seek employment opportunities for the people of our neighborhood.

16. Big Brother/Big Sister- A branch of Big Brother / Big Sister has been established between the Sunday Community and the neighborhood.

17. Ministry of Legal Advice-as needed there is legal advice available for poor people of the neighborhood

In process and planning stages are the following:

- **A Center for Transformation**, which will provide an opportunity to people wishing to minister to the social and environmental needs of the community to live for a short period in the neighborhood. This will afford an opportunity, not only to experience the needs of the neighborhood first hand and to minister to them, thereby helping to transform the neighborhood, but also for the personal transformation of the participants.

- **A Youth Facility** is being planned in a mostly vacant building in the neighborhood, which will include a gymnasium. It will provide a much needed recreation center for neighborhood youth, and will be available to Sacred Heart School, San Miguel School at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and any other parish in Region 1 that needs or wishes to use it. It will be full gymnasium size with a hardwood floor. The Heart of Camden is presently in the process of acquiring the building.

- **A Maritime Museum**, located in the now vacant Holy Saviour Episcopal Church, which will showcase the history of the neighborhoods relationship with the sea and the shipping and ship building industry. It will also teach boating and boat safety.

Introductory Words for Deanery 1 Report

A Word on Deanery I

In his talk on April 20, 2006 at the annual dinner for Catholic Charities of the diocese of Camden, Bishop Joseph Galante said: "To me the City of Camden is the wounded Body of Christ." A profound and memorable statement! One year later at the Catholic Charities Dinner of 2007, reflecting on the responsorial psalm in the Mass of that day ("The Lord hears the cry of the poor") he had this to say: "I want to listen more keenly to the cries of the poor and to affirm 'the preferential option for the poor.'" These words resonate so well with what Mother Teresa of Calcutta said when she spoke in front of the Art Museum on her first visit to Philadelphia in 1976. There, she quoted Scripture to point out that what we do for those in need we do for Jesus and said: "Touch the poor and you will touch Christ. Touch Christ and you will be saved. Touch the poor!"

Camden City is, in many ways, a colossal tragedy in a rich nation. It cries out for solutions to Camden County, to the State of New Jersey, and to the United States of America. It cries out to the Diocese of Camden. Its condition is intolerable because it suffers under awful injustice. Its cry is not for a handout but for justice. For the past forty years, in contradiction to the teachings of The Church in the Modern World, the vast majority of the catholic people in the suburbs have supported the apartheid that walls in the poor in Camden. They have supported every decision by Camden County and the State of New Jersey to build unwanted facilities (hurtful to real estate enhancement in the suburbs) in the City of Camden. For example, the County Sewage System, The County Trash Burner, the County Prison and the State Prison. Colossal Scrap Hills dominate the Waterfront and there are dozens more that are placed unjustly among the poor. There is massive resistance to affordable housing in the suburbs. The poor are kept out legally by zoning and pricing. So indeed, "the City of Camden is the wounded Body of Christ." A homeless person found on a street in the better-off suburbs, is, as a matter of policy, taken by the police and unloaded on Broadway in Camden City. The call of Christ is to touch "the wounded Body" and be saved. "At the judgment it will be the poor that we will be judged by" in our planning and in our ministry.

After 39 years in this City, I have heard some of the cries of the poor. God has heard all of them. But, God help us, His hands seem to be tied in our own. There is no Deanery in this diocese like Camden City. There is no Deanery like this in the United States. We must never get used to it or cease to ache about it. In the past 12 years, it has had an average of 36 murders a year. If it were as bad as the worst city in Europe, it would have 5 murders. Its total municipal taxes are just able to pay health coverage for the city employees. So, it is bankrupt with a capital "B" and overwhelmed by environmental injustice done to it by the suburbs. Worst of all, its young people in thousands are being destroyed. Fifty-two percent of students drop out of high school with many of them becoming part of two hundred open-air drug markets in this town. One third of the youth of the city end up in jail. The yardstick, by which the Diocese of Camden will be measured at the end of the day, will be: Did we together do all we could do to honor the poor?

We are in times that demand great Christian Faith and we don't need faith for the possible. As Paul says in Romans 8: "Hope that sees for itself is not hope. If we hope for what we do not see we wait with endurance. In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with incomprehensible groaning."

For a long time to come, we cannot consider any diminishment of Catholic ministry in the City of Camden but rather, consistent expansion. Camden's catholic priests do not live outside the City, they stay with the limping ship and consequently, Catholic Churches are powerful anchors for the burdened neighborhoods that surround them.

Thanks be to God for the Holy Eucharist which is the source, the enablement, and destination of our entire urban ministry. Indeed, it is the Sunday Eucharist celebrated in the parishes, as Bishop Galante proclaims, that calls every parish in the diocese to focus on the poor with works of justice and charity.

May God direct us to create greater vehicles of ministry in the City of Camden in which residents of the Camden Deanery and of deaneries outside it can participate together for mutual and continuous development.

We place our trust in the fact that "God hears the cry of the poor." That cry, in whatever words the poor of Camden express it, is for "preferential" treatment for once in their lives. Each of Camden's nine Catholic Churches is like a grandmother's home with all the local nurture of body and spirit that people expect and need to get there. It hardly needs to be said that Camden is not Voorhees. Anyway, we tried to respond to the call of the Diocese and deal with the unusual circumstances of Deanery 1 and we planned for four churches to work in two clusters. May we all get the help we need to do God's will for the poor people of Camden.

May 15,2007

Rev.Michael Doyle