This report is to be submitted to the Diocesan Planning Office by May 15, 2019 for review by the Diocesan Implementation Commission.

DATE: May 13, 2019

COHORT #: 8  COUNTY: Mercer

COHORT PARISHES, CITIES/TOWNS: St. Alphonsus, Hopewell; St. George, Titusville; St. James, Pennington

The elements of your Implementation Plan and the outcomes you desire should try to address the overall goals for FAITH IN OUR FUTURE.

Bishop O’Connell has asked us to focus our attention on action plans that will:

1. Strengthen and enliven the parishes of the Diocese as well as Diocesan-sponsored organizations and ministries.

2. Explore new models of leadership in parishes and ministries in institutional settings (schools, colleges, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, etc.) in order to address the challenges presented by the anticipated retirement of a large number of clergy and religious over the next ten years.

3. Improve our stewardship of personnel, finances, and facilities and other parish and Diocesan resources.

4. Establish collaborative relationships among the parishes and ministries of the diocese that will build upon the gospel to re/evangelize the local church, especially those who live on the fringes of the church, as well as those who do not yet know Christ.

5. Provide for pastoral ministry to Hispanic Catholics, the fastest growing segment of our Diocesan population, within our parishes and organizations.
COHORT VISION AND VALUES STATEMENT

Note: Directions for arriving at Value, Vision, Goals, Objective, and Action Plans can be found in the FIOF Implementation Guide, Section Six.

**X** Our cohort mission statement, values and vision have not changed.

☐ Our cohort mission statement, values and vision have been revised since last year.

*please insert*

COMMON MISSION STATEMENT

The Cohort exists to implement the Faith in Our Future decisions of Bishop O’Connell in a given area of the Diocese. In planning for new models of ministry and undertaking collaboration, the work of the Cohort will strengthen and enliven all of the cohort parishes, improve the stewardship of human, financial and facility resources, and enable more effective evangelization and outreach.

We will meet this mission by:

- Embracing the Bishop’s principles of Evangelization, Collaboration, Stewardship, Accountability and Service for the revitalization of our parishes.
- As Cohort Leaders, focusing on the development of Cohort 8 implementation plans that support our Pastor’s direction for the Cohort.
- Collaborating with Parish Leaders and Sub-Committees to develop Goals and Objectives that focus on Social Justice, Evangelization and Faith Formation.
- Providing the needed guidance and advice to successfully put into action the plans to accomplish the Cohort’s Goals and Objectives.

VALUES

As a Cohort we are committed to operating out of the following values or guiding principles for action:

Our Cohort Values include the following:

We will work together:

- in a spirit of prayer and ongoing discernment
- with respect for each person, each viewpoint and each culture
- strengthening the communion and sense of community among us
- with charity, generosity, patience, persistence, honesty and humility
- engaging the full participation of all parishioners
- as brothers and sisters co-responsible for the mission of the Church
- hopeful about our future
VISION

As a Cohort, we hold the following vision which we would like to see accomplished in the next five years:

Our Cohort Vision is:

Our parish cohort, “The Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley”, made up of St. Alphonsus, St. George and St. James parishes, has a unified vision of Faith, family and communion through Christ.

We celebrate a diversity of gifts and talents among our parishes which we use to connect with each other and respond to the needs of the community where we worship, live and work. We promote stewardship as a way of life as we work with all of our families to create a more just and peaceful world.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit and embracing the Gospel, we meet people where they are. We ignite the flame of faith in each other's hearts as we journey together toward our loving and merciful God, revealed both in the sacraments and in the ordinary circumstances of life.
DATE: May 13, 2019

COHORT #: 8

PARISHES: St. Alphonsus,
St. George, St. James

BISHOP O’CONNELL’S MODEL DIRECTIVE:

☐ Collaboration ☑ Linkage ☐ Merger ☐ Personal Parish
MINISTRY COLLABORATION AREA:

Linked Faith Formation (“LFF”)

GOAL:
Continue to establish a uniform Religious Education Operating Model, so that the communities we serve feel welcome in and familiar with a program that serves all, but retains the unique character that each location offers.

ACTION PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective(s)</th>
<th>Action Steps</th>
<th>When? How Frequent?</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Status *</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| A. Implement Collaborative Catechist Training | 1. Encourage Catechists to participate within formal training (Notre Dame Step Program – Core)  
2. Continue to provide Virtus/ACT training for new Catechists  
3. Offer and encourage Catechists to participate in the formal training provided by the Diocese  
4. Continue to provide orientation to new Catechists | Annually as schedules indicate | Directors of Religious Education | To be completed by Spring 2020 |
| B. Implement Collaborative Catechist Meetings | 1. Define collaborative catechists meeting schedule (all three parishes)  
2. Provide catechists with information on upcoming training and/or retreats available through the Diocese  
3. Continue to encourage catechists to attend annual Faith Formation Day through the Diocese | Annually / Ongoing | Directors of Religious Education |
MINISTRY COLLABORATION AREA:

Linked Faith Formation (“LFF”)

GOAL:
Continue FORMED-to-ministries approach for adult faith formation within the linked parishes, including general catechesis, utilizing the resources contained on the FORMED.org website. Implementation approaches can include parish wide, small groups, and individual study designed to increase the overall knowledge base and catholic awareness of our parishioners.

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<tr>
<td>A. Establish Small Groups as tool for adult faith formation</td>
<td>1. Identify and provide educational content to support pilot / rollout groups (“Presence”–3-study session from FORMED) 2. Prepare talking points for Fr. Mike 3. Recruit leaders from existing ministries 4. Sponsor a ”proto-group” from existing ministries as a ”pilot small group” 5. Provide training for pilot group ”facilitators” 6. Provide pilot group with script for inviting participants 7. Assess pilot success 8. Upon pilot success, establish small groups rollout</td>
<td>Pilot: By June 2019 Rollout: Q4 2019</td>
<td>LFF team</td>
<td>To be completed by Spring 2020</td>
</tr>
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MINISTRY COLLABORATION AREA:

Linked Faith Formation (“LFF”)

GOAL:
Establish a formal program to adopt FORMED.org as the primary Catholic online resource, within the existing ministries and/or social concerns groups of the 3 linked parishes, in order to strengthen and enliven the Faith of our parishioners.

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<tr>
<td>A. Assign the Faith Formation team members to the selected ministries or groups</td>
<td>1. Divide the pilot ministries and/or groups among the Faith Formation team members according to the members’ familiarity with that group</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>LFF team</td>
<td>To be completed by Spring 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| B. Schedule visits to the Pilot ministries and groups | 1. Contact ministry and group leaders  
2. Explain the goal and arrange to make a personal visit to the ministry/group meeting | October 2019 | LFF team |  |
| C. Visit pilot ministries and groups | 1. Attend ministry meeting  
2. Explain purpose for attending  
3. Bring recommended FORMED content examples  
4. Engage members and register on the spot (goal) | November 2019 – January 2020 | LFF team |  |
| D. Assess the effectiveness of pilot and plan next tranche of ministries and groups | 1. Review meeting notes and compile new approach to tackle remaining ministries  
2. Select next collection of ministries and groups and repeat process | Q1 2020 | LFF team |  |
| E. Leverage Ministries Leaders’ Retreat to broaden engagement of ministries | 1. Present Formed content at Ministries Leaders Retreat | Q1 2020 | LFF team |  |
MINISTRY COLLABORATION AREA:

Linked Social Concerns / Justice (“LSC”)

GOAL:
Engender a spirit of mutual acceptance, cooperation, and Christian fellowship among our linked parishes so that we may better understand and meet the needs of the less fortunate.

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<td>Execute plans for combining identified ministries/events per master ministry spreadsheet</td>
<td>Six ministries/events identified for combining: Summer Food drive, Lightly used Children’s Book drive, Bereavement, Respect Life, Lenten Food drive, Baptism and Bereavement Anniversary team</td>
<td>Some ministries/events are annual and some are ongoing. All combined by May 2020</td>
<td>LSC team</td>
<td>To be completed by Spring 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement Catholic Social Teaching/ Social Justice</td>
<td>Conduct educational session as planned, and have follow-up meeting for feedback and future planning, to determine what kind of training is still needed and generate recommendations</td>
<td>By May 2020</td>
<td>LSC team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare Brochure on the Social Concerns Ministries/events for printing and posting on websites</td>
<td>Descriptions, goals, and contact information would be included for our combined Ministries/events.</td>
<td>By May 2020</td>
<td>LSC team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing review of our fifty Ministries/events</td>
<td>Strive to increase participation, expand leadership, find ways to improve and continue to look at combining Ministries/events</td>
<td>By May 2020</td>
<td>LSC team</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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MINISTRY COLLABORATION AREA:

Linked Evangelization Committee (“LEC”)

GOAL: Increase collaborative efforts to evangelize externally and (mostly) internally so that we increase our faith and the size of our faith community.

### ACTION PLAN

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<td>Maintain visible signs of unity for the Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley such as our branded T-shirts</td>
<td>Publish a procedure for getting T-shirts to parish organizations, maintain inventory, encourage parishioners to wear them at events such as picnics and Festa</td>
<td>Procedure written and published by Q4 2019 T-shirts available at parish picnics</td>
<td>LEC team</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan and promote linked fellowship events</td>
<td>Added seven events to Tri-Parish calendar for 2019/2020 planning year, including Family Game Night, Festa Italiana, FHVOS Trash Pickup, Pennington Day, Hopewell Borough Cruise Night, Titusville 4th of July, St. George Mass on the Grass, Hopewell Harvest Fair, a Middle school Event and GreaseBand</td>
<td>Every other month on average.</td>
<td>LEC YES (Youth Engagement Stewards) teams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement Sacrament Anniversary Card Ministry</td>
<td>Get parishioner groups to add notes Create database of sacramental anniversaries</td>
<td>Mail cards in monthly batches Messages added to cards annually</td>
<td>Religious Ed Classes LEC team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue Focus on Evangelization Skills</td>
<td>Bring in speaker to provide practical training for cohort and ministry leaders</td>
<td>October 2019</td>
<td>LEC team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve process of integrating new parishioners</td>
<td>1. Expand new parishioner welcome to all three parishes 2. Connect new parishioners to parish activity contacts through the registration process</td>
<td>By Q2 2020</td>
<td>Parish Secretaries, Linked Communication team, LEC team</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
MINISTRY COLLABORATION AREA:

Linked Communications Committee (“LCC”)

GOAL:
To support the ministries and initiatives of the Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley, by providing and maintaining communications platforms and procedures.

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<tr>
<td>Define and implement a dynamic and responsive web presence for the Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley that communicates the character of the community, reduces duplication and enhances clarity</td>
<td>Gain LLC agreement on recommended path forward 6/19. Define template and register site 10/19. Consolidate data stream from three parishes and populate pages 10/19 - 3/20. Rollout 5/20</td>
<td>Complete migration to single site by 5/20</td>
<td>LCC Web sub-team</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruitment of writers, photographers and social media reporters</td>
<td>Recruit volunteers to take pictures of events. Set up a common electronic location to receive photos from volunteers. Recruit volunteers for social media reporting</td>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>LCC Publicity/social media sub-teams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a linked calendar to enable effective planning by leaders and ministry heads in all three parishes and at the linked level</td>
<td>Collect 2019 - 2020 calendars from each ministry in each parish 5/19. Create a draft linked calendar and review with parish leadership, including process for resolution of conflicts 7/19. Upload to Google 10/19. Beta test 10/19 - 4/20.</td>
<td>Complete rollout by 9/20</td>
<td>LCC Calendar sub-team</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
We have worked as a Cohort Implementation Team to develop our Annual Cohort Implementation Plan.

Signatures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Alphonsus</th>
<th>St. George</th>
<th>St. James</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Haney</td>
<td>Michael Ahearn</td>
<td>Brian Barr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Mc Shea</td>
<td>Terry Evanko</td>
<td>Melody Maskell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Crow</td>
<td>Gerry Sellner</td>
<td>Chuck Sikorski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Hansen</td>
<td>Terry Brennan</td>
<td>Paul Kimaid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Msgr. Michael Walsh</td>
<td>Rev. Jarlath Quinn</td>
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