



# Implementation Update #2

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One of the goals of Faith in Our Future is to improve our stewardship of resources. In this Update, we'd like to focus your attention on staffing. The reality is that the biggest portion of a parish's budget is spent on salaries and benefits.

Staffing in a parish is like a two-edged sword. It can either aide or become an obstacle to the essential evangelizing activity of a parish. The parish has to be able to live within its own means. If it does not, the resulting debt incurred jeopardizes its mission and its very existence. At the same time, having an appropriate level of qualified, well-trained staff to organize and oversee ministry, and administrate the parish is essential. Cohort parishes, whether they are collaborative, linking or merging, have an opportunity to think creatively about staffing, both to reduce expenses AND to get qualified, well-trained people in key positions. Bishop O'Connell expects serious discussion about staffing to take place at the Cohort. Strengthening our parishes demands it.

### **Best Practices that have led to success**

St. Jerome Parish, West Long Branch and St. Mary of the Assumption, Deal have been linked for some years. They were able to share a DRE and a Business Manager. This has helped these two small parishes keep highly qualified staff serving the linked parishes under the same Pastor. Either parish would struggle to support these key staff positions on its own.

St. Alphonsus Parish- Hopewell, St. James Parish-Pennington and St. George Parish- Titusville share one highly qualified Director of Music Ministry. He is able to work with organists, cantors, and choirs to develop a repertoire and support the liturgical life of all three parish communities.

- How will your collaboration on staffing help your cohort parishes to cut/control expenses?
- How will it enable your parishes to attract and benefit from the leadership and expertise of qualified, enthusiastic and experienced ministry professionals in areas needing attention?

**Want to know more?** Register today for the workshop ....

### **"Best Practices for Building Inter-Parish Collaboration"**

May 10 at the Diocesan Chancery in Lawrenceville, 9:30am – 3 pm

OR May 11 at St. Mary Parish, Colts Neck, 9:30am – 3pm

\$15 per person, lunch provided – deadline to register 5/1/17

[www.dioceseoftrenton.org/events/best-practices-for-building-inter-parish-collaboration](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/events/best-practices-for-building-inter-parish-collaboration)