

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE
EPISCOPAL DECISION FOR PHASE I—COHORT 6

**(Our Lady of Sorrows-St Anthony; St. Raphael-Holy Angels; St. Gregory the Great;
St. Vincent de Paul; St. John the Baptist)**

Having completed the first phase of the “Faith in Our Future” initiative, the Most Reverend Bishop, David O’Connell has announced various decisions that shall affect the pastoral life of our 107 parishes. The initiative was undertaken in order to address various challenges that we face as a local Church: demographic changes, the impending shortage of active priests, the need to better use resources, provide effective pastoral care for immigrant communities etc. Phase One involved extensive consultation at many levels to identify ways and models by which the Church could evangelize in a stronger way in light of future challenges.

Bishop O’Connell has decided the following for our cohort:

- 1. Implement the Collaborative Model for all five parishes in the Cohort**
- 2. Linkage of St. John, Allentown and St. Vincent, Hamilton no later than 7/1/19**
- 3. Designation of Our Lady of Sorrows-St. Anthony as Center for Haitian Ministry**
- 4. Periodic Review of St. Raphael-Holy Angels ; potential suspension of operations of Holy Angels Church as early as 7/1/17**

Collaborative Model: Parishes in this model enter into formal relationships working together on specific, agreed upon shared areas of ministry, programs, staffing and resources. Parishes remain distinct with their own pastor, pastoral and finance councils, finances, census, and sacramental books. Parishes strive to do together what a single parish cannot do effectively alone.

Linkage Model: In this model, two or more parishes (in our cohort-St. John’s, Allentown and St. Vincent de Paul, Hamilton) **share one pastor** but remain distinct with their own finance councils, finances, census, and sacramental books. They may decide to unify their pastoral councils or they may remain distinct. Linked parishes share ministries, programs and services. They also collaborate with other parishes in the cohort.

Catholic Schools: The status of parish or diocesan schools will continue to be evaluated by the Diocesan Department of Catholic Education and each school will follow the norms established in the “School Sustainability Study” issued in 2013.

Pastoral Care In Institutional Settings

Pastoral Care of Catholics in schools, colleges, health care facilities and prisons will be determined by the Bishop in consultation with the pastors and offices in whose territory the facilities exist. Parishes are to continue to provide pastoral care as needed or requested by the Catholics residing within the parish territory.

PHASE II will be concerned with the implementation of these decisions.