

**DIOCESE OF TRENTON
FAITH IN OUR FUTURE
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS
COUNTY: MONMOUTH COHORT 12**

PARISHES CITIES

St. Joseph Millstone
St. Robert Bellarmine Freehold
St. Rose of Lima Freehold
St. Thomas More Manalapan

SCHOOL OTHER INSTITUTIONS

St. Rose of Lima CentraState Medical Center
Monmouth County Jail

Appreciation

We wish to thank you for the prayer, reflection and work which you have put into ***Faith in Our Future*** to date. We appreciate the time and effort you have given to evaluating your parishes and your cohort based on the goals and criteria established by Bishop O'Connell and for making Cohort Suggestions for your future.

Commendations

We commend you for:

- Your spirit of cooperation.
- Your desire to explore new models of leadership.
- Your willingness to increase Hispanic ministry.
- Your willingness to have a 7-day hospital coverage.
- Your desire to look for ways to adjust the Mass schedules to reduce the need for extra clergy.
- Your willingness to develop a plan to ensure collaboration among the parishes in the Cohort to cooperate in joint ministry efforts.

Preliminary Recommendations

After reflecting on Bishop O'Connell's goals and criteria for ***Faith in Our Future***, your Cohort Evaluation, your Parish Evaluations, your Data Verification Forms and Parish Summary Forms, we support your suggestions and make the following preliminary recommendations:

• **Model One: Collaborative Parishes** and focus on the following areas which you noted on your suggestion form:

1. Collaboration in the support/care of buildings and grounds.
2. Sharing of best practices among cohort parishes in faith formation, outreach programs, etc.
3. Further study on the viability of Saint Rose of Lima School (with the possibility of changing to a regional school by 2017-2018).

We further recommend that as a cohort you:

1. Share resources/training (when possible) regarding leadership, youth ministry and catechetical programs/coordinators to decrease cost and make evangelization more effective.
2. Plan and implement a Mass schedule which will better attend to the reality of your cohort parishes and will eliminate the need of searching for too many visiting priests on weekends.
3. Support and cooperate with Saint Rose School to find ways to attract more students and increase enrollment.
4. Study the possibility of creating a cohort website/social media page where parishioners can get more information about what is happening at each parish.
5. Plan and implement a communication system (bulletin, email) among the cohort pastors and coordinators to share best practices (i.e. homilies, building & grounds committees, leadership ministries, fundraising, etc.).
6. Find ways to pay the outstanding debt owed to the diocese.
7. Address the need for services at the Monmouth County Jail.

Rationale

We make these preliminary recommendations based on your own study and data and the following:

- 1 You recognize that there are too many Masses on weekends and the need to have extra priests to help you cover all the Masses.
- 2 The School is causing a deficit at one of your cohort parishes.
- 3 Because some of the parishes in the cohort are in debt with the diocese.

4 You recognize that sharing resources will help the cohort parishes to better serve the parishioners and the community.

5 We believe our preliminary recommendations for models and ministries will help Cohort 12 achieve the 5 goals approved by Bishop O'Connell for ***Faith in Our Future***.