

## **Factors for Planning Groups to Consider in Decisions about Re-configuration and Re-structuring**

*At the 3/2/02 Planning Group Leadership Day, those present met in small groups to give feedback to the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Council, Priest Personnel, the Office of Pastoral Planning, and Bishop Clark. They also generated the following list of factors which planning groups should consider when faced with decisions about future re-configuration and re-structuring.*

**1. vitality of the parish** -- strength of staff (small as it might be), level of participation of laity, strength of councils and committees, can parish function on its own; does parish have growth potential and is it doing anything with that potential; number of programs and activities – some thought that parishes with strong lay leadership and participation may not need to have a priest assigned full-time; others thought that these parishes should be more likely to have a priest appointed.

**2. size/condition of the facility** -- will a particular facility accommodate the numbers for worship and ministry? will it be safe and not too crowded?

**3. special ministries of the parish/special factors** – for example, the presence of Hispanic/migrant ministry, campus ministry, an influx of summer parishioners, prisons, community homes.

**4. size of paid staff/number of deacons)**

**5. distance between parishes** -- distance between rural parishes needs to be short enough so that the celebrant can have time to interact in a quality way with people before he has to leave to get to another location

**6. Mass attendance vs. registered parishioners**

**7. look at different models of pastoring/leadership (priest and lay leader) –** determine what are the needs of the parish when adopting one

**8. need for Eucharistic liturgy in a given geographic area taking into consideration parishes, size of parishes and locations, and distances between parishes**

**9. financial stability/viability of parish** -- ability to self-sustain; collections vs. obligations -- all aspects of finance should be considered

**10. number of parishes that one priest would serve**

**11. parish's number of baptisms, marriages and funerals**

**12. no priest should have more than 3 parishes**

**13. perception is that the better prepared/educated parish can handle the possibility of no priest**

**14. are other ministerial staff/support available?**

**15. look at history of the parish**—have they been short a priest before? how did they adjust? did they remain stable?

**16. take history of the location into consideration** -- e.g. places that have had more priests in the past maybe this time have fewer and likewise those who have had few in the past have some this time

**17. leadership needs of the staff** -- e.g. how well they work together/whether they are dysfunctional

**18. school attached to parish**