

**Possible 2005-2015 Scenarios
for the Geneva/Seneca Falls/Waterloo Planning Group**

Projected number of priests: 3 for 2005-2015

Here is a set of scenarios for the Geneva/Seneca Falls/Waterloo planning group. It is important to understand that these are NOT specific plans for the future of these parishes. Those plans will be developed by the leadership of the parishes in the planning group and affirmed by Bishop Clark as part of the ongoing five-year pastoral planning cycle. These scenarios are designed to present possible ways that the Geneva/Seneca Falls/Waterloo parishes might consider structuring and living out the mission of the Church over the next ten years given what is known about the current ministerial opportunities and challenges facing the communities and the projected number of priests available to the planning group through 2015.

Note: Scenarios are intended to stimulate thought and provoke discussion. They raise issues and questions that should be addressed during the planning process, especially some that planning group members may be reluctant to put on the table. You are free to select one as your plan (this rarely happens), develop a plan that includes the best features of each (occasionally this happens), or develop your own unique plan from whatever flows from the discussions about these scenarios (what usually happens).

Scenario one:

St. Francis DeSales and St. Stephen parishes have consolidated into a single parish maintaining two sites for worship and ministry. This new parish is led by a pastor. A parochial vicar assists the pastor, while providing much of the pastoral care and sacramental ministry needed at Geneva Memorial Hospital. The unified staff now includes a Spanish-speaking deacon. A pastoral associate provides 20 hours of pastoral care at Hobart/William Smith each month and serves as a link between the campus community and the parish.

St. Mary and St. Patrick, which clustered five years ago, now has also become a single parish with two sites for worship and ministry. This parish is led by a pastoral administrator who is assisted by a full-time priest sacramental minister. Over the years, a unified staff has developed as well as many unified ministries, including faith formation, sacramental preparation, and social ministry. A pastoral associate provides 20 hours of pastoral care per month at the NY Chiropractic College and serves as a link between the campus community and the parish. Students are

transported to St. Patrick Church for weekend Masses, other prayer services, and adult faith formation. One pastoral council has existed since the two original parishes clustered, and, now that there is a single parish, finance councils have also joined into one.

These two newly consolidated parishes collaborate together to develop creative approaches to reach out to the unchurched and disconnected Catholics. They also collaborate in supporting the work of the local Catholic elementary schools and DeSales High School. A pastoral associate--shared between the two new parishes--trains, coordinates, and supports parishioners from Geneva, Waterloo, and Seneca Falls to provide additional ministry to the hospitalized, those in senior care facilities, and shut-ins. The three priests share responsibility for two weekend Masses at each church as well as weekday funeral Masses. One of the priests, who is bilingual in Spanish and English, presides at a Sunday Mass for migrant workers, their families, and local Spanish-speaking parishioners.

Scenario two:

St. Francis and St. Stephen have consolidated into one parish but have decided to rent or sell some facilities, including one of the churches. There are four Masses in English at the remaining church, including one early Sunday evening, to accommodate college students, youth, young adults, and parishioners working on weekends. There is an additional Sunday afternoon Mass in Spanish. The parish is led by a pastoral administrator who is assisted by a staff and a full-time priest sacramental minister.

St. Mary and St. Patrick have also consolidated into one parish and one facility, although a ministry center in the other village continues to be actively utilized. There are four weekend Masses in the remaining church. This parish is led by a priest pastor who is assisted by a staff including a pastoral associate, religious education coordinator, youth minister, and business manager.

A priest parochial vicar is assigned to help with the sacramental ministry needs of both new parishes.