

## **Principles Used to Allocate Priests to Planning Groups in Five and Ten Year Projections**

The following are the principles used to project the number of priests who will be available to each planning group for five and ten year planning horizons:

1. Number of registered families conditioned by average weekly attendance: minimum of 500 families and maximum of 4,000 per parish with smaller minimums in rural and inner-city urban areas.
2. Size of worship space and ministry facilities: minimum of 400 seating capacity for worship spaces. With three masses and a 70 percent usage factor, this equates to capacity to handle an average weekly attendance of 840 or approximately 800 families. Over time this would become the minimum size of parish and would push the average size of a parish well over 1000.
3. Move toward an average capacity used of 70 percent. The current diocesan average is 50 percent.
4. Distance to neighboring worship and ministry sites: no one should have to travel more than 30 minutes under normal conditions to attend a weekend Mass.
5. No cluster will have more than three parishes.
6. No parish will have more than three worship sites per assigned priest.
7. No priest will say more than three Masses of Sunday obligation each weekend.
8. Each parish and/or Sunday worship site must have Eucharist every Sunday.
9. Capabilities of priests should be well matched with size and complexity of parish.

Other factors which were taken into account:

1. Cultural diversity within and outside parishes/faith communities of the planning group.
2. The presence of campus, prison, hospital, and migrant ministries within the planning group.
3. Seasonal shifts in Mass attendance.