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***PASTORAL PLANNING  
FOR THE  
NEW MILLENNIUM***

***Phase II***

**Adopted: May 14, 2003**

***The Holy Family Catholic Community***

*Sacred Heart, Perkinsville*

*St. Joseph's, Wayland*

*St. Mary's, Dansville*

*St. Pius V, Cohocton*

# *Holy Family Parish Pastoral Plan*

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### *ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

The Holy Family Pastoral Planning Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank those who helped us during the planning process.

We thank the Holy Spirit for guiding us and always showing us the way.

We thank the parishioners for their prayers, patience, and input to the process.

We thank Fr. Steve and Fr. Quintus for being with us when we needed guidance and for letting the Holy Spirit do his work among us.

We thank Karen Rinefierd for providing information and acting as a liaison with the Diocese.

We thank Debbie Gilman for providing us timely financial information.

And finally, we thank the individual Parish Councils and Finance Councils who provided input, comments, feedback and support when we needed it.

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### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Nancy Goodrich
<b>Cluster Staff:</b>	Rev. Steve Kraus Rev. Quintus Fernando Deborah Gilman
<b>Diocesan Liaison:</b>	Karen Rinefierd
<b>Communications:</b>	Stephen Cook

#### **Sacred Heart**

Russ Dudash  
Kay Johantgen  
Cris Share-Wensel  
Sharon Bricks (Alternate)

#### **St. Mary's**

Emery Jaeger  
Adrian Joy  
Greg Keagy

#### **St. Joseph's**

Robert Cownie  
Daniel Slattery  
Rose Ann Wolfanger  
Ann Schubmehl (Alternate)

#### **St. Pius V**

Ann Carey  
James Feely  
David McRae

*VISION STATEMENT*

**United in the Spirit of Christ, we will merge into a single entity named the Holy Family Parish. The administration of the parish will be supported by a Pastoral Council and a Finance Council. The parish will operate under one budget. This vision will include life long faith formation and Catholic education in our community.**

*MISSION STATEMENT*

**Strengthened by God's presence and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will celebrate the mystery of Christ's love and sacrifice through ministering to the varied needs of people of all ages within our Parish, our surrounding communities and the world beyond our boundaries.**

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### ***PASTORAL PLANNING PROCESS***

The Catholic Church in the United States has been experiencing a decline in the number of priests for many years.

In the Diocese of Rochester, it is expected that the number of diocesan priests available for active assignments will decline to 62 by the year 2025.

In the late 1990's, Bishop Clark asked that all the parishes of the Diocese begin a process of Pastoral Planning. The purpose of Pastoral Planning is to create, sustain, and increase the vitality of parishes and faith communities in the Diocese of Rochester, even though it is faced with fewer numbers of priests.

Phase 1 of the Holy Family Catholic Community Pastoral Planning began in 1997. At that time, four separate churches in Steuben and Livingston counties were combined into a cluster. These churches included Sacred Heart, Perkinsville; St. Joseph's, Wayland; St. Mary's, Dansville; and St. Pius V, Cohocton.

Since our formation as a cluster, we have accomplished many great things. We have:

- established a central office
- centralized our cluster staff
- combined our faith formation and youth ministry programs
- appointed a financial administrator and are now sharing cluster expenses
- combined our RCIA program
- combined our sacramental programs
- formed cluster Liturgy and Consistent Life Committees

In September 2002, Bishop Clark requested that we begin Phase 2 of the Planning Process. Phase 2 involved developing a 5 and 10 year plan for the parish.

A committee of 17 members (plus 2 alternates) was assembled and the process began. This document is the fruit of their labor. It contains their recommendations for the next 10+ years for the Holy Family Parish.

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### **COMMITTEE PHILOSOPHY**

The opportunity in front of the Planning Committee was to determine how to deal with the priest shortage yet still remain a vital and vibrant community. We knew from experience that to focus only on the number of priests could lead to an overemphasis on structural and legal issues rather than pastoral needs. Pastoral Planning is not focused on solving the “priest shortage” problem but rather on identifying and implementing responses to pastoral needs in a church that will have fewer priests.

Early in our discussions, we realized that the drastic decrease in the numbers of priests (62 by the year 2025) might require some parishioners to re-examine their understanding of parish, faith community, the roles of priests, deacons, lay ecclesial ministers, and indeed, almost every aspect of their spiritual life.

Our cluster is going to change. The question is, how and in what ways. However, no matter what the changes may be, our vision will remain the same. We seek to become the Church described in Bishop Matthew Clark’s Vision Statement:

*“The Church...seeks but a solitary goal: to carry forward the work of Christ Himself...to give witness to the truth, to rescue and not to sit in judgment, to serve and not be served.” (Vatican II, The Church in the Modern World, Paragraph 3)*

The Planning Committee was determined to carry forward the work of Christ. Therefore, we decided that all our decision would serve the needs of the entire cluster and not individual parishes. As a result of this philosophy, we decided early on to develop a plan that would keep all our facilities open and in use. We realized that in looking out for the good of the entire parish, all the individual churches were provided for.

The Planning Committee decided to create a strong foundation on which a new parish would be built. The new parish will have a strong leadership foundation that can deal with the issues that would certainly arise. The new leadership model will consist of a priest/pastor and Parochial Vicar, an experienced and dedicated parish staff, a Parish Pastoral Council and a Finance Council.

All participants felt comfortable talking about issues that were specific to them and their parishes. There was a genuine attitude of respect and purpose. Our discussions were deep, respectful, and productive. As a result, all committee members consented to the recommendations.

In conclusion, it was not the purpose of the Pastoral Planning Committee to provide a detailed outline for the formation of the new parish. Rather it was our objective to recommend a leadership model and create the framework for the new Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council. This new leadership team will be charged with the task of serving the new parish to the benefit of all members and churches.

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### ***BISHOP CLARK'S GUIDELINES***

Bishop Clark provided each Pastoral Planning Committee with a set of guidelines, which provided a framework for the Committee's discussions and recommendations. These guidelines are first and foremost for the health and well being of our remaining priests. They included:

- A pastor cannot be responsible for more than three parishes in a cluster
- A priest can celebrate no more than three weekend liturgies
- Clusters of 2 or more parishes should move toward becoming one parish
- Holy Family Catholic Community is projected to have 2 priests until 2008
- Holy Family Catholic Community is projected to have 1 priest after 2008
- We will have one Pastoral Council

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## **5-YEAR PLAN**

### **Components of the Plan**

- That the cluster will become a single parish on July 1, 2004
- That our legal name will continue to be Holy Family Catholic Community, Inc., but we will be know as Holy Family Parish
- That we implement a leadership model of a Priest/Pastor and a Parochial Vicar
- That there be a single Parish Pastoral Council; term begins on July 1, 2003
- That there be a single Finance Council; term begins on July 1, 2004
- That all facilities will continue to be kept open and fully utilized
- That there will be no change in Mass schedules as long as we have 2 priests
- That there be a continuation of the long term investment decisions and philosophy that have already been implemented with regard to the Reilly bequest. Specifically, we suggest that the bequest be invested in such a way that the principle is protected and that the new parish use the interest in a wise and prudent manner for the benefit of all parishioners.
- That the new Parish Council form a broad-based committee of parishioners to investigate the Catholic educational needs of all parishioners and develop a set of recommendations and plans. The recommendations should cover all aspects of Catholic education for our parochial school children, our Faith Formation, RCIA and adult faith formation programs.
- That our parish leadership will be dedicated to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and to the guidelines of Bishop Clark, the US Catholic Conference of Bishops and the Holy See.

### **Pastoral Council**

- The Pastoral Council will be comprised of 12 members consisting of three representatives from each of the four churches
- The initial terms will be staggered (1, 2 and 3 years)
- Each church will choose the members and terms for the first term
- The Council will have the following non-voting members; Pastor, Parochial Vicar, Deacon, Business Manager, School Principals, Finance Council representative, and representatives from the standing committees
- The new council will determine its own covenant and by-laws
- The chairperson will be selected from and by the new council members
- The Pastoral Council will be selected by June 30, 2003 with the Term of Office beginning July 1.

### **Finance Council**

- The Finance Council will be comprised of 8 members consisting of two members from each church
- Each existing Finance Council will select 2 members for the new council
- The initial terms of office will be 3 to 5 years
- The new Finance Council will write its own covenant and by-laws
- The chairperson will be selected from and by the new Finance Council

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- A representative to the Pastoral Council (non-voting) will be selected by the new Finance Council
- Selection of the new Finance Council members will be completed by January 1, 2004
- The new Finance Council will start on July 1, 2004

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## ***10-YEAR PLAN***

### **Components of the Plan**

- That weekend liturgies will be celebrated at St. Mary's and St. Joseph's
- St. Pius and Sacred Heart churches will still be utilized for the following:
  - Weddings
  - Funerals
  - Penance Services
  - Special Liturgies
  - Confirmation
  - Holy Days
  - Days of Prayer
  - Baptisms
  - First Eucharist
  - Other functions as needed
- Each of the 4 worship sites will have one weekday Mass.
- These recommendations may be put into effect sooner if the number of priests in the Holy Family Parish is reduced to one

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### *SCHOOLS*

#### **Recommendations**

- That there be one parish school system known as the Holy Family School (Projected July 1, 2004)
- That the school system have 2 campuses, one in Dansville, and one in Wayland
- That the school will continue to be monitored for enrollment and finances
- That there be no other changes at this time