

## **Possible Scenarios for the 5 Saints West Planning Group**

***Projected number of priests: 4 for 2004-2009, 3 for 2009-2014***

*Here is a set of scenarios for the 5 Saints West planning group. It is important to understand that these are NOT specific plans for the future of the 5 Saints West 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 5 Saints West 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 2014.*

### **Scenario one:**

St. Christopher's remains a stand alone parish, currently led by a pastoral administrator with its sacramental ministry provided by a part-time priest sacramental minister. St. Columba/St. Patrick, St. Mary of the Assumption, and St. Vincent dePaul have chosen to cluster and are moving toward fully merging the three parishes within the next two years. They will, however, continue to use all three churches for worship and all three facilities for ministry. This new cluster is led by a pastor who is assisted by a parochial vicar. Because the two priests live together in one of the three rectories, a cluster facilities committee is examining whether the two remaining rectories will be used for offices or ministry or rented out. There are three weekend Masses at Christopher's while the other three churches have two Masses each. The four parishes have jointly hired a pastoral associate to coordinate pastoral care to the hospitalized, shut-ins, and the bereaved; to train parishioners for ministry; and to coordinate a shared adult faith formation process for the planning group.

### **Scenario two:**

St. Christopher and St. Vincent dePaul have clustered as have St. Mary of the Assumption and St. Columba. Each cluster is led by either a pastor or a pastoral administrator/sacramental minister team. An additional priest works half-time in the two clusters while serving half-time elsewhere in a chaplaincy position. His presence allows for a weekend schedule of three Masses at St. Christopher and two at each of the other churches. Each cluster is served by a shared staff with various ministries happening either at both locations or jointly at one. Each cluster also has a joint pastoral council as a consultative body to the pastor/pastoral administrator. The four parishes share a coordinated process for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults with dismissal catechesis and celebration of the rites at each of the churches. There are joint sessions for inquirers which

rotate among the four churches as do sessions for catechumens and candidates. The four parishes share one Easter Vigil which rotates among the churches.

**Scenario three:**

The four parishes have chosen to merge into one parish with four worship sites. This new parish is led by a pastor who works with two parochial vicars, one staff, one pastoral council, and one finance council to meet the ministerial needs of the communities. While children's religious education continues to be offered at each of the sites, all sacramental preparation programs for adults and children are offered jointly. The new parish leadership has made a concerted effort to participate in local town and ecumenical ventures as well as to offer a visible, warm outreach to inactive Catholics.