

SCENARIOS  
NORTH WEST ONTARIO PLANNING GROUP  
Possible Snapshots 10 Years From Now – Discussion Starters  
September 25, 2004

Note

Creative possibilities to stimulate thought and provoke discussion – that’s the purpose of these scenarios. They try to raise issues and questions that should be addressed during the planning process, especially some that planning group members may be reluctant to put on table. You are free to select one as your plan (this rarely happens), develop a plan that selects 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 1

St. Felix, St. Francis and St. Dominic have chosen to become a single parish, with three worship sites. A pastoral administrator leads the parish with a full time sacramental minister. The new parish is discussing the future uses of its facilities including the three churches.

St. Patrick’s new church creates a welcoming space large enough for the community to worship; there is also a center for adult, youth and child faith formation, social ministry and parish meetings. This site is also a welcoming place for Diocesan and local events. The priest (sacramental minister or priest pastor) offers a third Mass in the newly expanded St. Bridget parish.

St. Mary is a stand-alone parish with a school. A priest pastor leads this parish, although a pastoral administrator has served it in the recent past.

The North West Ontario Catholic community has developed several community wide ministries with combined staffs.

**Social Ministry:** Led by a full time minister who coordinates an energetic group of lay volunteers in a variety of ministries focused on the needs of those within the planning group area, particularly the most vulnerable.

**Young Adult Ministry:** A full time position that serves the entire NW Ontario Catholic community. The minister trains and supports the lay volunteers within each parish, builds a relationship with Finger Lakes Community College and gathers the larger Northwest Ontario group regularly. The minister implements the diocesan document “Sacramental Celebration and Campus Ministry” and is accountable to one designated supervisor with a job description developed with the help of Human Resources and Shannon Loughlin, diocesan director of young adult and campus ministries.

**Business Management:** A full time position which oversees the facilities and financial accounts of all parishes and ministries. Meets with all finance councils.

**School Liaison:** A part-time position that serves as liaison between all the parishes and the Catholic schools in the area. The liaison works to strengthen the relationship students and their families have with their own parishes.

**SCENARIO TWO:**

All six parishes have chosen to merge into two parishes and retain separate worship sites. Two pastoral administrators oversee the pastoral and administrative care of the communities. Three sacramental ministers are able to share responsibility for sacramental ministry and pastoral care at the two parishes since they do not face the added demands of administrative work. Each parish, while maintaining all worship sites, has one staff, one pastoral council and one finance council.

**SCENARIO THREE:**

All the parishes are led by pastoral administrators overseeing the pastoral and administrative care of the communities. Three priests and three deacons, without administrative responsibilities, provide sacramental care to the entire North West Ontario Catholic community.