

Possible Scenarios for the Our Lady of the Lakes Planning Group

Projected number of priests: 3 for 2004-2009, 2 for 2009-2014

Here is a set of scenarios for the Our Lady of the Lakes planning group. It is important to understand that these are NOT specific plans for the future of the Our Lady of the Lakes 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 Our Lady of the Lakes 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:

Our Lady of the Lakes is now a consolidated parish with five worship sites at St. Januarius, St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Patrick, and St. Theresa. St. Andrew parish has been closed and the building sold. The current weekend Mass schedule, re-evaluated on an annual basis, includes two Masses at St. Michael and one at each of the remaining churches. The new Our Lady of the Lakes parish, led by a pastor, has a staff including a parochial vicar, a pastoral associate, two catechetical leaders, a youth minister, a business manager, and the school principal. The pastoral associate, who has gone through a certification program for campus ministry, provides at least 5 hours per week of pastoral care/campus ministry at Keuka College. The pastoral council collaborates with the pastor/pastoral administrator to vision and plan for the future of Our Lady of the Lakes, while the finance committee—including members of the six original parishes—aids the pastor in the stewardship of parish financial resources.

Scenario two:

Our Lady of the Lakes is now a cluster of three parishes (St. Januarius, St. Michael, and St. Theresa) under the guidance of a pastor or pastoral administrator. Parishioners know that, within the next couple of years, the three parishes will move toward merging into one parish with multiple worship and ministry sites. The weekend Mass schedule includes three Masses at St. Michael, two at St. Januarius, and one at St. Theresa. The Bishop has appointed a team of two retired priests to provide two additional Masses during the summer months. A cluster-wide facilities committee provides recommendations regarding the ongoing use of the three closed facilities. Currently two are available for weddings, funerals, and weekday Masses or communion services, while the third has been sold. Consideration is being given to renting one of the rectories to a

community agency. The cluster pastoral associate--assisted by the rest of the staff--recruits, trains, and provides ongoing support to parishioners in ministerial roles in the community (e.g. liturgical ministers/musicians, catechists, social ministers, pastoral visitors). There is a concerted effort to encourage all baptized members of the community to participate in the Church's mission both in their daily lives and on behalf of the cluster, and especially to help set future directions for the cluster.

Scenario three:

Our Lady of the Lakes is now a parish with two full-time worship/ministry sites at St. Januarius and St. Michael. The St. Theresa church and facilities continue to be used for weddings, funerals, one weekday Mass, other liturgical celebrations, youth ministry activities, social activities, and small faithsharing groups. The other churches and buildings have either been sold or rented. This new parish is led by a pastoral administrator who is assisted by two sacramental ministers, one of whom is centered primarily at St. Januarius and the other at St. Michael. The priest at St. Michael, speaking both English and Spanish, is also involved in a shared Geneva/Penn Yan-based ministry with the local year-round Hispanic community and the migrant camps. The pastoral administrator rents housing in the St. Januarius rectory, while the two priests live at St. Michael's. Administrative offices as well as offices for the pastoral administrator and two priests are located at St. Michael's, while the catechetical leader and a part-time secretary have space at St. Januarius. The pastoral administrator and "St. Januarius" priest both maintain second offices at St. Januarius and have regular office hours. The catechetical leader oversees children's religious education at both St. Michael and St. Januarius (with an on-site administrator at St. Michael), while all sacramental preparation happens jointly, rotating among St. Januarius, St. Michael, and occasionally St. Theresa. The pastoral administrator provides ongoing training and support to a network of parishioners who, in conjunction with the staff, ensure that parishioners who are hospitalized or not able to come to Mass are visited frequently and receive the care they need.