

St. Bartholomew Parish - 522-3680
St. James of the Valley Parish – 948-1218
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish – 825-8626
St. Matthias the Apostle Parish – 851-1930
St. Vivian Parish – 728-4331



Translation: **Five Churches**

A monthly publication announcing
“happenings” in the Pastoral
Region.

St. Margaret Mary Deanery, as well as the whole of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, has been preparing for a time when there may be only 100 priests serving as pastors. Our goal in the face of a priest shortage, financial crunch and changing pastoral needs, is to continue the mission of the church. We can do this by sharing resources and ministering together in order to make future transitions easier. As part of that preparation, the regional planning committee for our parishes would like to present some possible models of how the church in our area may look. This is a challenging and exciting time for us as Church. This is our time to realize we are a community of believers, not merely geographical groupings.

We are inviting the parishioners of each parish to be part of the planning process. Please take the time to look over the three models in this publication. Write down your responses to the questions for EACH possible model. Perhaps you may think of some issues of concern the committee did not identify. Perhaps you may help create an alternative model. As you prayerfully reflect on each model try not to see yourself as a member of a particular interest group or parish. Focus your energy on the good of the *whole* Pastoral Region.

Some of our parishes will be holding a “town meeting” to talk over these questions and our hopes for the future. Others may simply ask for your written responses to be returned by a specific date. Look to your particular parish bulletin for specific details.

Whether any of us likes it or not, we are preparing for a time when there may be only two pastors to serve our five parishes. This is the time to “think outside of the box”. This is the time that God has called us to be Church. This is the time for you to become part of the process to ensure a strong and vibrant Church in our part of Cincinnati.

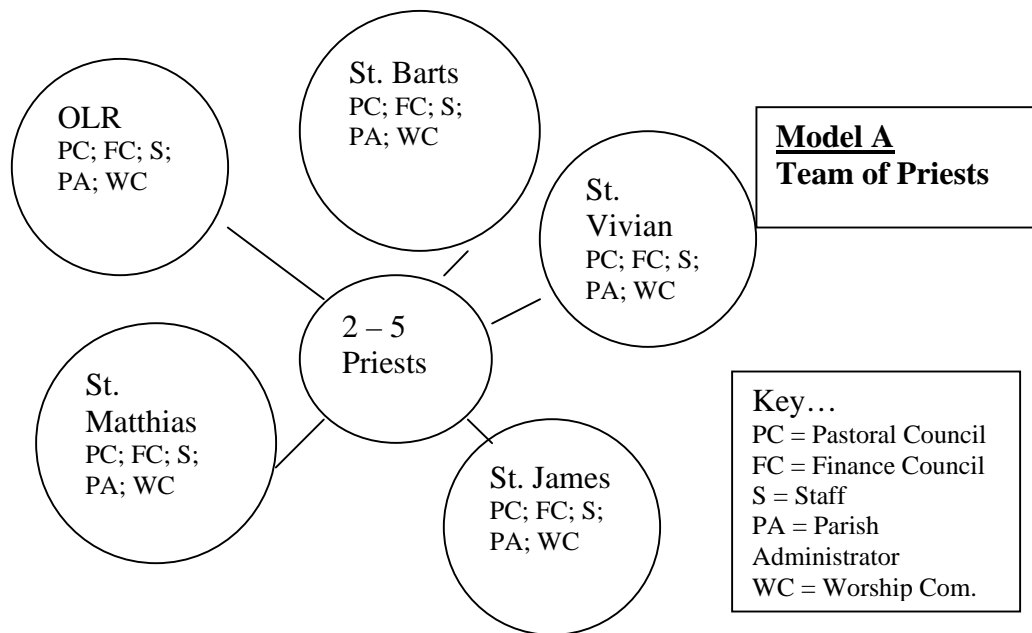
GENERAL QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

What would you say are the charisms, the important ministries, of your parish?

Where does your parish put its financial and pastoral resources?

What might we begin doing with neighboring parishes?

This Model (Model A) is based on the premise that all five of the parishes will remain together as a liturgical and pastoral unit.



Team of Priests: The Archbishop can appoint a team of priests who share the pastorate of several parishes. Each of the priests possesses the responsibilities and obligations of pastor in each of the parishes. One of the priests is designated as the team moderator. Each parish would have separate administrators, staffs, liturgical celebrations, Masses, committees and commissions etc.

Questions for Consideration

What do you know? What don't you know about the model?

How will people be affected (for better or worse) now and in the future?

What values or principles underlie each model?

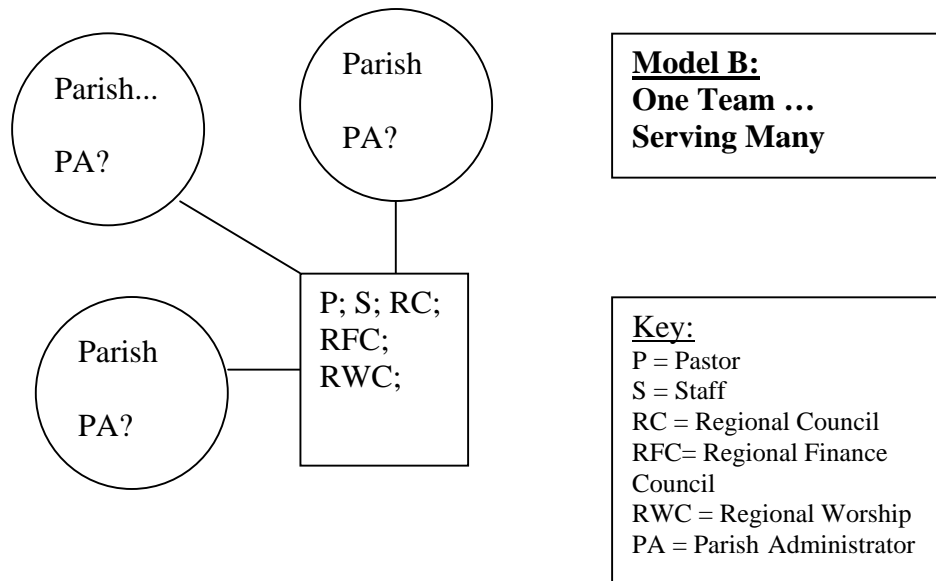
What is it saying about Church?

What are the risks and benefits of the particular model?

How will it meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of parishioners?

What are the financial considerations (good or bad) for the model?

The following two models (Model B and C) are based on the possibility that the five parishes may be broken down into two different groupings with one pastor for each grouping. The groupings would be based on common charisms, priorities, direction etc. The models make no attempt to identify what these groupings may be at this time.



One Team Serving Many: In this model, a team consisting of a pastor and several pastoral staff members serve several parishes in an area. The team works out of one common office. There may or may not be Parish Administrators at the other sites. There may or may not be Mass at all of the parishes. A Pastoral Region Council advises the pastor and the pastoral team. The Pastoral Region Council is made up of representatives from each of the individual parishes.

Questions for Consideration

What do you know? What don't you know about the model?

How will people be affected (for better or worse) now and in the future?

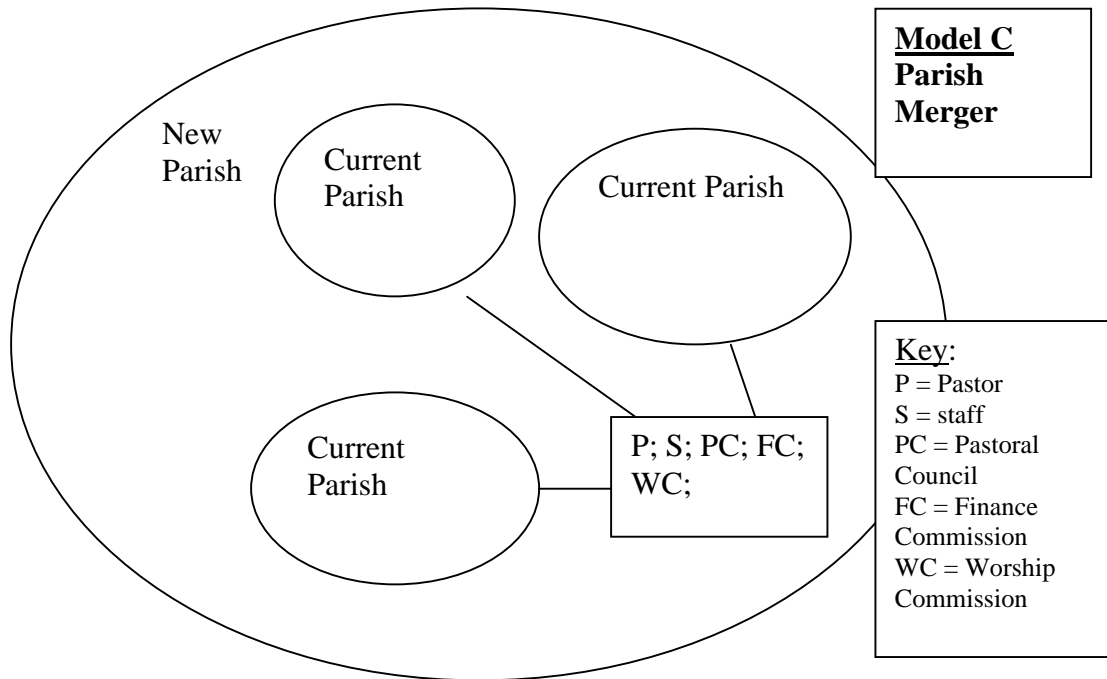
What values or principles underlie each model?

What is it saying about Church?

What are the risks and benefits of the particular model?

How will it meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of parishioners?

What are the financial considerations (good or bad) for the model?



Parish Merger: One pastor or pastoral administrator is assigned to serve two or more parishes. All councils, staffs, committees, finances, sacraments etc. are merged together to create a new canonical parish. Most Sunday liturgies would be at one site. There may still be funerals and weddings; faith formation; other ministries taking place at the other sites.

Questions for Consideration

- What do you know? What don't you know about the model?
- How will people be affected (for better or worse) now and in the future?
- What values or principles underlie each model?
- What is it saying about Church?
- What are the risks and benefits of the particular model?
- How will it meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of parishioners?
- What are the financial considerations (good or bad) for the model?

Concluding Reflections.....

- After reflecting on these questions for each of the three models...
- Prioritize the three solutions or clearly describe an alternative solution.
- Which model will maximize the good and minimize the harm?
- Which model will meet the needs of the church now and into the future?
- Which model will best foster community and allow us to be the "Body of Christ"?