



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE for PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVES

Pastoral Planning for PPA 330 (Springfield)

As a part of Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning, Holy Cross Parish, Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, and Saint Kevin Parish were asked last October to enter into discussions to address the financial challenges the parishes face and to consider ways in which the parishes could better collaborate with each other. A Parish Planning Committee made up of representatives from each of the parishes, the pastors, the Dean for the area, and a facilitator met together over several months to draft a recommendation. This recommendation was submitted to the Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Committee which oversees pastoral planning in the Archdiocese.

The recommendation from the parishes: 1) noted the complexity of the issues and the need for more time and more information to better address them, 2) outlined some steps the parishes could take to improve their financial conditions, and 3) noted some general areas in which the parishes, while remaining independent, could collaborate by possibly sharing some resources and staff.

The Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Committee considered the plan from the parishes and made a recommendation to Archbishop Chaput. The Archbishop, after discussing the matter with the Council of Priests, has decided:

- 1) The plan submitted by the Parish Planning Committee is accepted as a very good starting point. The parishes will remain open and independent but will need to continue to look at ways they can address the challenges they face.
- 2) The Parish Planning Committee is asked to submit a more detailed proposal to the Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Committee by July 1, 2015.

First, this proposal is to elaborate upon the specific steps that the parishes will be taking to address financial concerns. Second, the proposal is to determine the specific ways in which the parishes will collaborate. Third, the proposal is to establish a time line for implementation of each element of the plan.

- 3) The Parish Planning Committee will be asked to provide an update on the implementation of the plan in December 2015.

The pastors of Holy Cross Parish, Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, and Saint Kevin Parish and the other members of the Parish Planning Committee are performing a great service by seriously addressing these very difficult issues. Hopefully by building a stronger financial foundation and by collaborating the parishes will be better able to share the Gospel with others.