

## **Possible Scenarios for the E. Greece/Charlotte Planning Group**

***Projected number of priests: 8 for 2004-2009, 7 for 2009-2014***

*Here is a set of scenarios for the E. Greece/Charlotte planning group. It is important to understand that these are NOT specific plans for the future of the E. Greece/Charlotte 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 E. Greece/Charlotte 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:**

Each parish is led by a pastor--or by a pastoral administrator with a priest serving as sacramental minister--and an additional priest is assigned as parochial vicar at Mother of Sorrows. However, since the population of the E. Greece/Charlotte area continues to decline, some of the parishes are exploring the advisability of clustering or merging. Because the planning group has reduced its number of weekend Masses to sixteen (three at St. John the Evangelist, St. Charles Borromeo, Holy Cross, and Mother of Sorrows; two at Holy Name of Jesus and Our Lady of Mercy), the parochial vicar also serves as sacramental minister at a parish in a nearby planning group. The six parishes have jointly hired a senior ministry coordinator to coordinate a network of volunteers to provide transportation to area seniors and to work with staff and parishioners to provide opportunities for spiritual reflection and social interaction. Each parish coordinates a different aspect of ministry with and by young adults (ages 18-39): Mother of Sorrows provides opportunities for parents of newborns and preschoolers; the Borromeo Prayer Center at St. Charles is the site for retreats, mini-retreats, Taizé prayer, and "classes" on Christian spiritualities; Holy Cross holds intergenerational programs for parents and their school-aged children; St. John is the center for devotional prayer and maintains a shared web site; Holy Name hosts coffeehouses with music, improv, and informal discussions connecting faith, personal life, and work, and also showcases the artwork of local young adults; Mercy coordinates service opportunities, such as work on Habitat houses, in the context of reflection on Catholic social teaching.

### **Scenario two:**

Two of the parishes are led by pastoral administrators and four by priest pastors. Three parochial vicars--assigned to Holy Cross, St. Charles, and St. John—share

the responsibility for sacramental ministry at the two parishes without pastors. One rectory, no longer having priests in residence, is the site of planning group-wide activities for seniors, young adults, and youth. Activities and programs for families and children are held on weekends at one of the schools. In order to build the impact of the Catholic parishes on the greater Greece-Charlotte area, the parishes hold a shared Labor Day Mass, followed by a breakfast, and a Thanksgiving Mass. The six parishes have also chosen to partner with the Buffalo/Rochester migrant ministry centered in Brockport in terms of both material support and personal interchanges.

**Scenario three:**

Three parishes are now led by pastors, and three by pastoral administrators with three priests serving as sacramental ministers. A parochial vicar and two retired priests support the sacramental ministry of the four larger parishes. Each parish has partnered with a different Catholic church--in the western part of the city of Rochester or one of the western towns--to offer material resources and staff/volunteer expertise as needed. The six parishes have chosen to rent space at the Greece Ridge Center for ministry and outreach. Five of the parishes "host" an early morning Mass, in place of one at their own church, one morning a week. Other offerings include Bible study for teens and adults, early morning coffee and bagels for seniors walking in the mall, a regular drop-in schedule for pastoral counseling and Confession, and a computer area with Catholic software.