

**CLUSTER REPORT:  
THE EIGHTH MEETING OF  
THE CLUSTER PLANNING AND COORDINATION TEAM**

The eighth meeting of the Cluster Planning Team (CPT) of the six Euclid Parishes convened February 11, 2008 at St. William. Facilitator John Kelleher presided, assisted by Chairperson Mary Muehle.

For this meeting each parish group and each subcommittee had been directed to submit in advance at least one but no more than three scenarios of desirable parish configurations, supported by rationales. The purpose of the exercise was to help CPT members arrive at an understanding of the lines along which people are and are not thinking. Five configurations were suggested in all; clearly an indication of how CPT members were and were not thinking. John Kelleher touched briefly upon each scenario so that all understood how they differed. For purposes of this meeting, these scenarios were not to be taken as final or as necessarily excluding others.

John Kelleher distributed three documents. The first of these, *Parish Consolidation – Canonical Implications* offers definitions and distinctions drawn from the *Code of Canon Law* to explain and clarify what happens when a parish is closed (*suppressed* is the proper term) and when parishes are merged. The major topic of discussion tonight was this document.

Here follows the gist of the discussion. When a parish is closed (suppressed):

- The territory of the former parish becomes joined to an existing parish or parishes.
- The Christian faithful become joined to an existing parish.
- After all financial obligations are determined, the remaining assets/liabilities are distributed to the resulting parishes “to which the Christian faithful are ascribed.”

When two or more parishes merge,

- A completely new parish is formed.
- The former parishes cease to exist.
- The former parishes lose their canonical identities and form an entirely new parish with a new canonical identity.
- The emphasis is not on the loss of identity but on the former parishes coming together as equals to form the completely new canonical parish.
- All property, goods, assets, and liabilities of the former parishes automatically become those of the new parish.

The other two documents distributed were “The Meaning of: ‘Include a Plan to Address the Financial Solvency of Parishes.’” and “Care and Maintenance of Closed Parishes.” These two documents, both of which originate from the Diocesan Finance Office, were not discussed at this meeting.

For the March meeting each parish CPT team is to consider the submitted scenarios, choose one that makes sense to the parish team, provide pros and cons for the choice, and submit their choice in advance of the March meeting. The parish teams are to use the documents named above as they consider the scenario they will submit.

Two other topics were considered. First, by consensus, the CPT voiced strong dismay at the prolonged delay in the production of the property assessments. The assessments were done in October, promised for early December, and are still not in hand. John Kelleher is to convey the dissatisfaction to the Pastoral Planning Office. Secondly, discussion of communications policy was postponed until after the CPT crafted its recommendation. Thereafter, a full meeting will be given to communication policy and procedure.

The next meeting will convene on March 17 at Holy Cross.