



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

DEPARTMENT OF DIOCESAN PLANNING
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Renewing the Church in New Brunswick, Part Two: Structuring a Church for the 21st Century

Mission: To respond to the challenges facing the Church in New Brunswick by developing a permanent structure of 3-4 parishes that will:

- Promote vibrant parish life, increasing Mass attendance and participation in parish ministries;
- Embrace all of the cultures present in New Brunswick, currently and historically;
- Make each parish financially sustainable for the foreseeable future;
- Respond to Diocese of Metuchen priest projections with a sustainable pastoring plan.
- Resolve the questions whether and how to develop a university parish in New Brunswick.
- To build on current collaborations among parishes in the deanery with Catholic Charities and St. Peter's University Hospital.

Outline of Process

| Month | Location | Meeting Topic |
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| January 9, 2012 | St. John Neumann Diocesan Pastoral Center | Bishop Bootkoski meets with New Brunswick pastors |
| January 14-15, 2012 | New Brunswick Parishes | Bulletin and Pulpit Announcements inform faithful, invite to information nights. |
| January 26, Feb. 2, 2012 | St. Peter's School Cafeteria | Jeff Korgen leads two information nights at St. Peter's School Cafeteria on January 26 and Feb 2 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. |
| February 2, 2012 | | <i>Catholic Spirit</i> covers story, announces to Diocese opening of process; RTC Website updated. |
| March 20, 2012 6:30 p.m. Tour 7:00 Meeting | Our Lady of Mt. Carmel | Tour, Bishop meets with Deanery Council to pray and offer ground rules and encouragement, discussion of how RTC Part One partnerships are going, review demographics and parishioner maps. |

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| April 24, 2012 6:30 p.m. tours 7:30 p.m. mtg. | Sacred Heart | Deanery Council: Tour of both Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist, Discussion of Pastoral Priorities and Ministries in each parish; discuss Bishop's pastoral on vibrant parish life. |
| May 15, 2012 6:30 p.m. tours 7:30 p.m. mtg. | St. Ladislaus | Deanery Council: Tour of both St. Ladislaus and St. Joseph, Review of Facilities Reports, Discussion |
| June 5, 2012 7:00 p.m. tour 7:30 p.m. mtg. | St. Mary Mt. Virgin | Deanery Council: Tour, Review of Finance Reports, Discussion |
| August 21, 2012 7:00 p.m. tour 7:30 p.m. mtg. | St. Peter the Apostle | Deanery Council: Tour of both St. Peter the Apostle and Catholic Center at Rutgers, Complete Review of Finance Reports, Canon Law Presentation and Discussion |
| Sept. 18, 2012 7:30 p.m. mtg. | St. Joseph | Deanery Council: Initial Proposals |
| Sept. 22, 2012 | Trenton 9:00 a.m. departure | Deanery Council: "Field Trip" to Merged Parish in Diocese of Trenton. |
| October 16, 2012 7:30 p.m. mtg. | Our Lady of Mt. Carmel | Deanery Council: Feedback from parishes, revisions |
| November 13, 2012 7:30 p.m. mtg. | St. John the Baptist | Deanery Council: Feedback from Bishop, revisions |
| December 11, 2012 7:30 p.m. mtg. | Sacred Heart | Concluding Prayer Service, announcement of new structure, leadership. |
| January -June, 2012 | | New Parishes' provisional pastoral councils meet to determine communication and community priorities, pastoral priorities, future of Catholic education, properties needed, mergers of parish organizations, other merger/closure related issues. |
| June 30, 2012 | | Civil consolidation process concluded |

Bulletin and Pulpit Announcement

Building on the success of the Renewing the Church in New Brunswick (Part One) process, Bishop Paul Bootkoski has asked the seven Roman Catholic parishes of the New Brunswick Deanery to come together with the Catholic Center at Rutgers, St. Peter's University Hospital, and Catholic Charities throughout 2012 to pray, study, and discern a common future together through a second round of the Renewing the Church in New Brunswick process. Bishop Bootkoski believes this is the right time for Catholics in the City to come together and vision a bright future as one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Some of the challenges parishes will be asked to consider are changes in the populations attending the seven parishes, finance considerations, and the projected shortage of priests available for full-time ministry in our Diocese. Bishop Bootkoski has called for a proposal to restructure the Church in New Brunswick into 3-4 parishes serving the pastoral needs of the People of God.

A unique element of this process will be the consideration of whether and how St. Peter the Apostle Parish should become a "university parish." The St. Peter's Deanery Council members and the Catholic Center at Rutgers will jointly make a proposal to Bishop Bootkoski.

Beginning in March, the New Brunswick Deanery Council will, with their pastors, prayerfully discuss the gifts and challenges of each parish, the past, present, and future demographics of our area, and the current pastoral needs of the People of God in the New Brunswick Deanery. Late this year, the Deanery Council with the Pastors will make a set of recommendations to Bishop Bootkoski. The notes from each meeting will be posted on the diocesan website.

I ask that you consider attending one of the two information nights, which will be held at St. Peter's School Cafeteria on January 26 and February 2 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Both meetings will be bilingual, English/Spanish. Please pray for the success of this new stage of Renewing the Church in New Brunswick.