



**Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's
STRATEGIC PLANNING
Zone 8 – Public Meeting & Parish Representatives**

**NOTES FROM CONSULTATION
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
PROPOSED ZONE 8 – Placentia & Area
Public Meeting & Parish Representatives
132 in Attendance
November 27, 2016**

QUESTION #1:

DOES THE CONCEPT OF A PASTORAL ZONE MAKE SENSE IN LIGHT OF OUR PRESENT REALITIES?

- The Advent candle should have been lit first
- The Archdiocese should not have announced the move of our pastor in the midst of this.
- Are there no women working with this committee? Are women not fit to anoint or to speak at Mass? Yes, there are 3 women on the Strategic Planning Committee.
- This proposal needs to be modified greatly if not scrapped altogether.
- Take the money for lay ministers and use it on youth ministry to get the young people back.
- How much of this is about money?
- Freshwater parish was financially sound, but the Archdiocese is in financial difficulty. Is this being done to maintain other buildings in the Archdiocese? There is no accountability about where our money is going.
- This does not make sense.
- I don't think lay ministers are looking for money, so I don't see how paying them could help our situation. How can combining areas among two or three priests help to serve a larger area? We need to evangelize and revitalize the faith among our people, particularly our young people. We are and must be a Christ centred and Christ acting people.
- We've gone through clustering and then a concerted effort to combine the parishes in this area to become one parish.
- It makes no sense that there are two dioceses separated by the yellow line on the highway. We need to explore that reality first so that we can share resources.



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QUESTION #1 CONT.

- It seems that the “Lay Minister” who will be paid will be taking on a lot more responsibilities than our current volunteers and will need to be compensated.
- A letter came from this area to the Archdiocese about financial matters, and there was NO response to date.
- There should still be an explanation of where our money is going. It would help, a little, to start to rebuild some trust in the Archdiocese.
- How can combining these parishes, help to make ministry here better? I think we should stay small.

QUESTION #2

a) DOES THE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PASTORAL ZONE IN YOUR AREA MAKE SENSE?

- People are more committed to their own community and would tend to assist and support there rather than a larger, less cohesive area.
- Most of the ministers in the churches now would not and could not travel to such far distances in this Zone.
- Rome still will not ordain women and so are losing half of the gifts of the church.
- It could come to putting ministry in one church or area one weekend and then another the next weekend and so on, and there will be little or nothing accomplished in any place.

b) Would some communities be better placed in another zone?

- None noted

c) Would some communities from another zone make more sense in your zone?

- None noted



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QUESTION #3

DOES THE CONCEPT OF A PASTORAL TEAM OF PRIESTS AND LAY MINISTERS MAKE SENSE?

- What would the roles and work of the team members be in these Zones? We need a better definition of how this would work before we can answer this question.
- Regionalization is the wave of the future.
- We have leaders in our community. We don't need people from outside coming in to tell us what to do. You don't need a college education to share our faith.
- There are already professional people, like former teachers, who are here and can lead us in faith formation and revitalizing the young people of the area. We need someone who is fired up about stirring up the faith of the community, not an administrator.

QUESTION #4

WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPLICATIONS OF IMPLEMENTING THE PASTORAL ZONE IN YOUR AREA?

- We have dealt with the standards of the Archdiocese, and we have a bad history with unfair distribution of costs between twinned parishes. This was addressed with the Archdiocese, and no response was given. An invoice was sent to compensate this parish for the extra expenses, and it was not paid. Our expenses are going to go up. There is no more money coming in the collection. We have five churches in this parish and decisions are going to have to be made about buildings. But, we cannot take on the burden of carrying another parish.
- It was suggested several years ago in the amalgamating of Holy Angels that we discuss the issue of closing churches. Telling the people of an area to get together with representatives from each community to decide to close churches will result in no church being closed. This should be done at a diocesan level.
- Finances need to be worked out in each area, with less of our money going to the Archdiocese, before we do anymore in amalgamating areas.
- We voted out Catholic schools and lost our young people with them. We have to find a way to reach out to our youth and bring them back. Things are much different from when we were growing up, and we have to find new ways to appeal to the reality of the lives of the young people today.



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QUESTION #4 CONT.

- It is getting harder to talk publicly about our religion, so there are less opportunities for these discussions.
- Do not understand why the announcement of the moving of priests here took place on this weekend with no warning.
- When we're doing sacramental preparation, there are crowds of people. But as soon as they receive their sacraments, they're gone. What is so harmful about continuing to go to Mass for young families?

QUESTION #5

DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS WITH THE FEASIBILITY OF THE OVERALL PLAN OF THE PASTORAL ZONE AND PASTORAL TEAMS?

- None noted

QUESTION #6:

WHAT SHOULD BE THE NEXT STEPS IN OUR PLANNING PROCESS?

- There are more questions about what is NOT happening in our churches. Maybe we should look at what's happening in other churches that are thriving and adapt new programs that actually work in bringing people back.
- There are enough good people here who can lead. Their gifts should be used to revitalize our parishes.
- There are a lot of good people gone from this area with the huge decrease in population, but there are still a lot of tremendous, good people with great leadership skills. We should build on the skills and abilities of these great people. The community and the presence of Jesus Christ needs it. As an example, with all the great and gifted musicians in this area, not enough are being drawn into sharing that particular ministry in our parishes.

OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS

- None noted