

DEANERY XI

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St. Brigid



Will close as a parish and merge to become one parish at Mary Queen of Vietnam.

St. Nicholas of Myra



Closed in 2006. Parishioners entrusted to Mary Queen of Vietnam.

Mary Queen of Vietnam



Immaculate Heart of Mary



Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Simon Peter will close as parishes and merge to become one parish at St. Maria Goretti.

St. Simon Peter



St. Maria Goretti



DEANERY XII

East St. Tammany-Washington Deanery

Assignment of Parochial Vicars is not to be expected by any parish in the foresee-

able future.

► **Annunciation**, Bogalusa, will remain open as a parish under the pastoral care of the Benedictines.

► **Our Lady of Lourdes**, Slidell, will remain open as a parish under the pastoral care of the diocesan priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

► **Sacred Heart**, Lacombe, will remain open as a parish under the pastoral care of the diocesan priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

► **St. Genevieve**, Slidell, will remain open as a parish under the pastoral care of the diocesan priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

► **St. John of the Cross**,

Lacombe, will remain open as a parish under the pastoral care of the diocesan priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

► **St. Luke the Evangelist**, Slidell, will remain open as a parish under the pastoral care of the diocesan priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

► **St. Margaret Mary**, Slidell, will remain open as a parish under the pastoral care of the diocesan priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

► **Sts. Peter and Paul**, Pearl River, will remain open as a parish under the pastoral care of the diocesan priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

QUESTIONS

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parish must be redrawn under canon law.

Q What is a mission church?

A A mission is an additional place of worship within a parish's boundaries. A parish is a community of people; a mission is a building.

Q Can parishioners change the name of a merged parish?

A Yes. Parishioners from each parish will meet during the facilitation process to discuss many issues. They may vote to change the name of the combined parish. If the request is approved, the parish first would have to be closed according to canon law.

Then, a new parish with the same territorial boundaries would be established under a new name. Canon law requires a church building to retain its original name.

Q How many priests are serving in the archdiocese and are there any trends?

A The number of active diocesan priests has decreased from 168 (in 1998) to 136 (in 2008). The number of religious order priests has dropped from 217 to 129 over the same period. The archdiocese estimates a net loss of another 18 diocesan priests over the next five years through retirement and/or death. There are 10 seminarians in the four-year program at Notre Dame Seminary.

Q What is the retirement age for priests?

A Priests in the archdiocese may retire at 70, but normal retirement is at 75. However, priests can serve beyond the age of 75 subject to an annual review. Many retired priests are still providing much-needed help in parishes.

Q What is the financial state of the archdiocese right now?

A Struggling but improving. Weekly envelope giving for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, was about 89 percent of what it was for the pre-Katrina fiscal year ending June 30, 2005 (up from 80 percent in 2006). Any archdiocesan property currently open now carries flood insurance, a change from previous practice. Total insurance costs have climbed 80 percent over pre-Katrina figures. The big challenge will be funding major capital projects that arise as the pastoral

plan moves forward.

"We are trying to put a financial tag on the cost of the plan," Archbishop Hughes said. "Obviously, the hope is that by restricting the number of severely damaged buildings that will be returned to use, that we will be able to use the resources available through insurance and through gifts to handle 75 percent of the cost of reconstruction. But I cannot tell you at this point if that figure is going to be reached."

Q What will become of a closed parish's records and artifacts?

A Sacramental records will be stored at the new parish or transferred to the archdiocesan archives. Currently, records older than 50 years are already being transferred to the archives. When a parish closes, its patrimonial goods (sacred artifacts, etc.), assets and li-

abilities go to the church with whom it is merging. The archives office is preparing guidelines to help closed parishes work through this process.

Q What happens to a closed parish's assets?

A Under canon law, all assets (offset by any liabilities) follow the parishioners to the parish to which they have been assigned.

Q How does the plan affect Catholic schools?

A The only major change is to restructure St. Anthony, Gretna, which has a one-level school building, as an early childhood education school, and Holy Name of Mary as an intermediate and middle school.