

## DEANERY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### CATHEDRAL

- Examine the Pre-K through Grade 8 structure to assure long term viability.
- There is no need for an additional Cathedral Deanery school.

### CITY PARK-GENTILLY

- There is no need for an additional City Park Deanery school.
- A need exists to identify viable options for continuous financial support of Holy Rosary High School.

### UPTOWN

- There is no need for an additional Uptown Deanery school.

### INNER CITY

- There is no need for an additional Inner City Deanery school.

### EAST JEFFERSON

- A feasibility study to validate need and types of financial support required to maintain and grow St. Agnes, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and St. Louis King of France.

### ST. JOHN/ST. CHARLES

- A feasibility study to validate need and types of financial support required to maintain and grow Our Lady of Grace, Reserve; St. Peter, Reserve; and Sacred Heart of Jesus, Norco, is recommended.

### WEST BANK

- Restructure St. Anthony, Gretna, and Holy Name of Mary to operate on two sites – one dedicated to early childhood education and the other to focus on intermediate and middle grades.

### ALGIERS-PLAQUEMINES

- There is no need for an additional Algiers-Plaquemines Deanery school.

### ST. BERNARD

- There is no need for an additional St. Bernard Deanery school at this time.
- As the population continues to grow and more elementary schools open, a survey should be conducted to assess interest in a St. Bernard Catholic High School.

### WEST ST. TAMMANY/WASHINGTON

- A recommendation to study the feasibility for an additional elementary school is recommended.

### NEW ORLEANS EAST

- There is no need for an additional New Orleans East Deanery school at this time.

### EAST ST. TAMMANY/WASHINGTON

- A recommendation to study the feasibility for an additional elementary school is recommended

## PLAN

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► Four currently operating parishes will close to become missions of adjacent parishes, and they will continue to offer liturgical services. Infant Jesus of Prague, Harvey, will become a mission of St. Martha, Harvey; Holy Guardian Angels, Bridge City, will become a mission of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Westwego; St. Pius X, Crown Point, will become a mission of St. Anthony, Lafitte; and St. Anthony, Gretna, will become a mission of Holy Name of Mary, Algiers.

► St. Thomas the Apostle (the UNO Newman Center) and St. Thomas More (the Tulane Catholic Center) will close as parishes but continue their campus ministry and liturgical services.

### Sharing a pastor

► In four cases, a single pastor will serve two parishes. Sharing a pastor will be St. Anthony of Padua, Luling, and St. Mark, Ama; St. Gertrude, Des Allemands, and St. John the Baptist, Paradis; St. Bonaventure, Avondale, and Our Lady of the Angels, Waggaman; and Our Lady of Lourdes, Violet, and St. Bernard, St. Bernard.

► Three parishes will reopen: St. Thomas, Pointe a la Hache; Our Lady of Lourdes, Violet; and St. Bernard, St. Bernard.

Archbishop Hughes said the planning process included extensive consultation, beginning at the parish level, using objective criteria that would apply across the archdiocese and was "not restricted to the areas most impacted by Hurricane Katrina." For example, the plan includes a guideline in the East Jefferson, West St. Tammany-Washington and East St. Tammany-Washington deaneries that parishes should not expect the assignment of parochial vicars in the foreseeable future.

### Pastoral needs

The planning tried to take into account the pastoral needs of African-American, Asian and Latino communities.

There were many consultations with the heads of major superiors of religious congregations who supply priests for service in the archdiocese.

"My greatest concern was (what would happen) if we

### GENERAL POPULATION IN THE 8 CIVIL PARISHES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS 2004/2007

PARISH	YEAR	POPULATION	% CHANGE
1. ORLEANS	2004	460,556	-48%
	2007	239,124	
2. JEFFERSON	2004	451,181	-6%
	2007	423,520	
3. ST. BERNARD	2004	65,210	-70%
	2007	19,826	
4. PLAQUEMINES	2004	28,636	-25%
	2007	21,540	
5. ST. JOHN	2004	45,053	+6%
	2007	47,684	
6. ST. CHARLES	2004	49,559	+5%
	2007	52,044	
7. ST. TAMMANY	2004	211,635	+7%
	2007	226,625	
8. WASHINGTON	2004	43,773	+3%
	2007	44,920	
Totals:	2004	1,357,607	-22%
	2007	1,077,290	

\*From GCR & Associates | U.S. Census Statistics

were to keep the status quo and diffuse the limited resources we now have in ways that focus on maintenance," Archbishop Hughes said. "That would be to lose sight of the God-given opportunity that is ours to make some sacrifices for the present so that the future may be built on a stronger foundation – smaller but stronger."

### Acknowledging the pain

Archbishop Hughes acknowledged one of the greatest challenges would be helping parishioners overcome feelings of anger or pain because of a closing or merger.

"I don't claim infallibility with regard to any decision," Archbishop Hughes said. "Obviously, every decision is a prudential judgment, but the attempt has honestly been made to apply objective criteria with regard to the vitality of parishes."

The plan calls for specially prepared facilitators to meet with parishes that are being merged or closed to address important issues. While the facilitation process unfolds, Mass would continue to be celebrated at each parish involved in the merger.

Edmundite Father Michael Jacques, who steered the pastoral plan process, said parishioners from each parish would

meet separately at first "to work through the difficulties of becoming one and letting go of their parishes. That's a grieving and healing process that needs to take place."

### Joint discussions

The goal is to hold a joint meeting of parishioners from all parishes that will form the new faith community to create a new parish mission statement and discuss the nature and extent of future parish ministries and membership on the pastoral and finance councils. Parishioners also could vote to change the name of the parish, but if that were to happen, canon law requires that the original name of the church building be retained. That process could run through Dec. 31.

Archbishop Hughes said he hoped the facilitation process would give parishioners an avenue to express their feelings.

"There's not going to be a sudden closing, which can trigger an emotional reaction without any opportunity for the venting of feelings," Archbishop Hughes said. "Our hope is that in introducing the six-month time period, parishioners can come up with a common plan."

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