



## ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE for PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVES

### Pastoral Planning for PPA 420

As a part of Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning, six parishes in Pastoral Planning Area #420 (Holy Martyrs, Orelan; Saint Alphonsus, Maple Glen; Saint Anthony of Padua, Ambler; Saint Catherine of Siena, Horsham; Saint Genevieve, Flourtown; and Saint Joseph, Ambler) were asked last October to enter into discussions to formulate a proposal by which these six parishes could possibly be reduced to four. A Parish Planning Committee made up of representatives from each of the parishes, the pastors, a priest coordinator, and a facilitator met together over several months to draft a recommendation. This recommendation was submitted to the Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Committee which oversees pastoral planning in the Archdiocese.

The recommendation from the parishes: 1) asserted that all of the parishes in the area are financially and pastorally viable and should remain open, 2) recommended if parish closures were necessary that Holy Martyrs Parish should be merged with Saint Genevieve Parish, and that Saint Joseph Parish should be merged with Saint Anthony of Padua Parish.

The Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Committee considered the plan from the parishes and made a recommendation to Archbishop Chaput. The Archbishop, after discussing the matter with the Council of Priests, has decided:

- 1) No parish mergers are necessary in this area at this time. All of the parishes in the planning area currently appear to be financially and pastorally viable.
- 2) Holy Martyrs Parish together with Saint Genevieve Parish and Saint Joseph Parish together with Saint Anthony of Padua Parish are encouraged to begin to explore ways in which the parishes would be able to cooperate in some areas of ministry.
- 3) The Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Committee is to work on formulating structures that will facilitate a formal collaboration between parishes.

The pastors the other members of the Parish Planning Committee have performed a great service by participating in this parish study and by submitting a carefully considered proposal. Hopefully by building stronger ties between various parishes in the area they will be better able to share the Gospel.