

Office of Strategic Parish Planning
Archdiocese of New York
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Making All Things New
Parish Core Team Update #28
June 6, 2014

Dear Cluster Core Team Members & Parish Facilitators:

Thanks again for all your hard work on *Making All Things New* in the Archdiocese of New York.

As you know, Cluster Responses with rationales to the Preliminary Recommendations are due this Sunday, June 8, 2014. Please be sure to use the Cluster Response form you received and send yourResponses, either as a Word document or PDF, to Helen Damitio, HDamitio@TheReidGroup.biz. This will complete Steps 4 & 5 in the 8-Step process.

Some other updates:

- When completing your Cluster Response, you need to address both the Model and the Ministry & Related Recommendations. You do not need to respond to each of the Further Recommendations (Ministry &Related) individually. Respond to them as a group, or cite specific ones that energize you as well as any specific ones which you might have concerns about.
- 2. Cluster Responses come from the Cluster as a whole, not from individual parishes. The Response will need to have the signatures of the Cluster core team members as with the Cluster Suggestions. There can be Plan A& Plan B options with rationales for each if everyone in a cluster does not reach a total consensus.
- 3. Some of the Preliminary Recommendations mention a possible name change for a parish when consolidation is the recommended model. **Please note that the suggestion of a name change is only that—a suggestion—**and this issue is one that will be dealt with more thoroughly in the implementation phase of *Making All Things New*. For the Cluster Response, please keep your focus on responding to the Mission and Ministry recommendations.
- 4. Some of you have asked us to clarify the role of The Reid Group consultants in the *Making All Things New* process. They are responsible for facilitating the 8 steps of the process,

working with the archdiocesan, vicariate, cluster and parish leadership. The Reid Group does not have any responsibility for making the Preliminary or the Final Recommendations -- that is the responsibility of the Archdiocesan Advisory Group.

- 5. The Archdiocesan Advisory Group will meet in **late June to review all Cluster Responses** at a second planning retreat and will prepare **Final Recommendations that will be sent to Cardinal Dolan.** This will complete Step 6 in the 8-Step process.
- 6. Cardinal Dolan expects to announce his decisions (Step 7) in September so that implementation (Step 8) can begin soon thereafter.

Finally, we want to clarify a question that has come up several times in the past weeks. As you know, Cardinal Dolan will not announce his final decisions until September 2014. Decisions about the timeline for implementation, particularly for those parishes that will close or merge, will be made in the months to follow. Therefore, all parish Religious Education programs should begin as normal inSeptember 2014 for the coming academic year.

During the academic year 2014-15, after consultation, recommendations for clustering and merging of some parish religious education programs will be given to Cardinal Dolan for his approval.

HAVE QUESTIONS? SEND THEM to <u>KJohnson@TheReidGroup.biz</u> and we will address them in future updates.

Thank you again for all your good work. Please do not hesitate to call or email one of your Reid Group team members if you have questions.

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