

STEPS IN THE PASTORAL PLANNING PROCESS:

Parish = people

Church=the building itself

Step 1: Presentation of data to regional parish leaders; May 24, 6 p.m.

Step 2: pastors meet with parish and finance councils to discuss possible involvement in a Pastoral Planning steering committee

Step 3: A Pastoral Planning Steering Committee is formed.

Step 3: Pastoral Planning committee collects data needed to formulate a preliminary plan for the 5-parish area.

Step 4: Preliminary plan is publicly presented.

Step 5: Some time is given for the parishioners of the 5 parishes to provide feedback and response to the Preliminary plan.

Step 6: Pastoral Planning committee, using feedback gathered, adjusts the Preliminary plan.

Step 7: A Final plan is publicized; Final plan is presented to pastors and parish/finance councils for consent and approval.

Step 8: Your Parish Council and your Finance Council vote to approve the Final Plan.

Step 8: Your Pastor petitions the Bishop to write a decree that would bring into effect any potential mergers included in the Final Plan.

Step 9: Bishop consults Presbyteral Council about merger. The council votes to either support or oppose the merger. (Presbyteral Council is a group of Erie Diocese priests appointed by the Bishop to help him make major decisions).

Step 10: Bishop issues decree to merge parishes.

Step 11: A timetable for transition is established and preparations begin to be made for the transition.

Step 12: Closure of actual buildings and selling of land is considered – which may not happen for years after the closing of any particular parish. (parish cemeteries will always remain in the care of the Catholic Church and will be maintained always and forever).