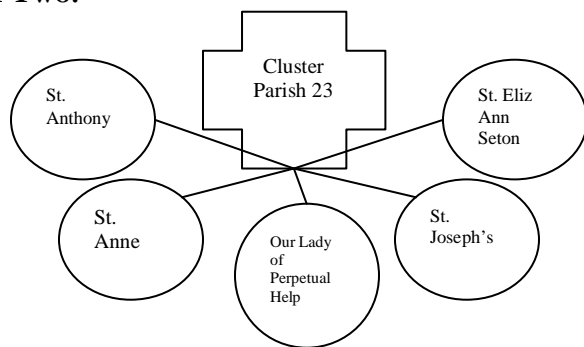


## Cluster Parish 23 Planning Committee Model Recommendation Process

Bishop Malone has asked all of us to prepare for the future and collaborate in working toward our vision of the New Evangelization. The committee members for Parish Cluster 23 have been working together and with various parish members to gain a better understanding of who we are, and where are we going with this process. New ways of sharing responsibilities for parish leadership need to be considered. Over the past months, the goal of the Cluster Planning Committee has been to choose the model that best supports our diocesan goal of evangelization and collaboration through clusters. The information and feedback you have shared with us has helped us to make significant progress in identifying the most feasible model to recommend. Model Two has been selected from the four options presented to us by the Bishop. This model supports our desire to enhance programs through collaboration, but also minimizes the immediate impact on our parish lives as we know them now. However, once our final report is submitted to the bishop, we must wait for his approval before implementation can begin.

### Model Two:



### Separate Parishes with Centralized Team & Councils

- One Pastor with support from two other priests
- One Cluster Parish Staff located in an Administrative Center centrally located to service all parishes
- Individual parishes may have pastoral &/or support staff
- One Cluster Finance Council
- One Cluster Parish Council
- May or may not have a priest in residence

The implementation of the overall recommendation for Parish Cluster 23, while offering opportunities for new life, may create much change, apprehension, and grief for the many. Change can be painful, and we believe that the structure of Model Two maintains sensitivity to our parishioners overall. The Bishop's Evangelization Task Force suggested that the consolidation of councils and committees is of critical importance. Each church should be represented in the membership of the cluster's councils and committees in the interest of community. These councils and committees should foster bridge-building and promote effective management of time, talent and treasure. The pastor, key staff and lay leadership must assume responsibility for the Church's mission of evangelization and for stewardship of the Church's resources necessary to achieve that mission. The Cluster 23 Planning Committee believes that Model Two is the best approach for supporting that mission of collaboration and bridge-building for the following reasons:

- † Model Two best supports the values identified as important and vital in the long-term life of the parishes based on feedback received from the individual church communities
- † Model Two allows the individual churches to maintain their identity, but begins the process for thinking more collaboratively
- † Model Two allows parishioners to ease into "cluster parish" thinking without being too disruptive in the initial implementation phases
- † Selection of Model Two acknowledges the work already done within the St. Anthony community and respects their desire for minimizing major changes that would again impact the parishioners within that community
- † Model Two provides flexibility for future growth and change as circumstances arise within Cluster Parish 23

We hope that this information proves helpful to you. As always, feel free to contact a member of the planning committee to provide feedback or to ask any questions you may have.