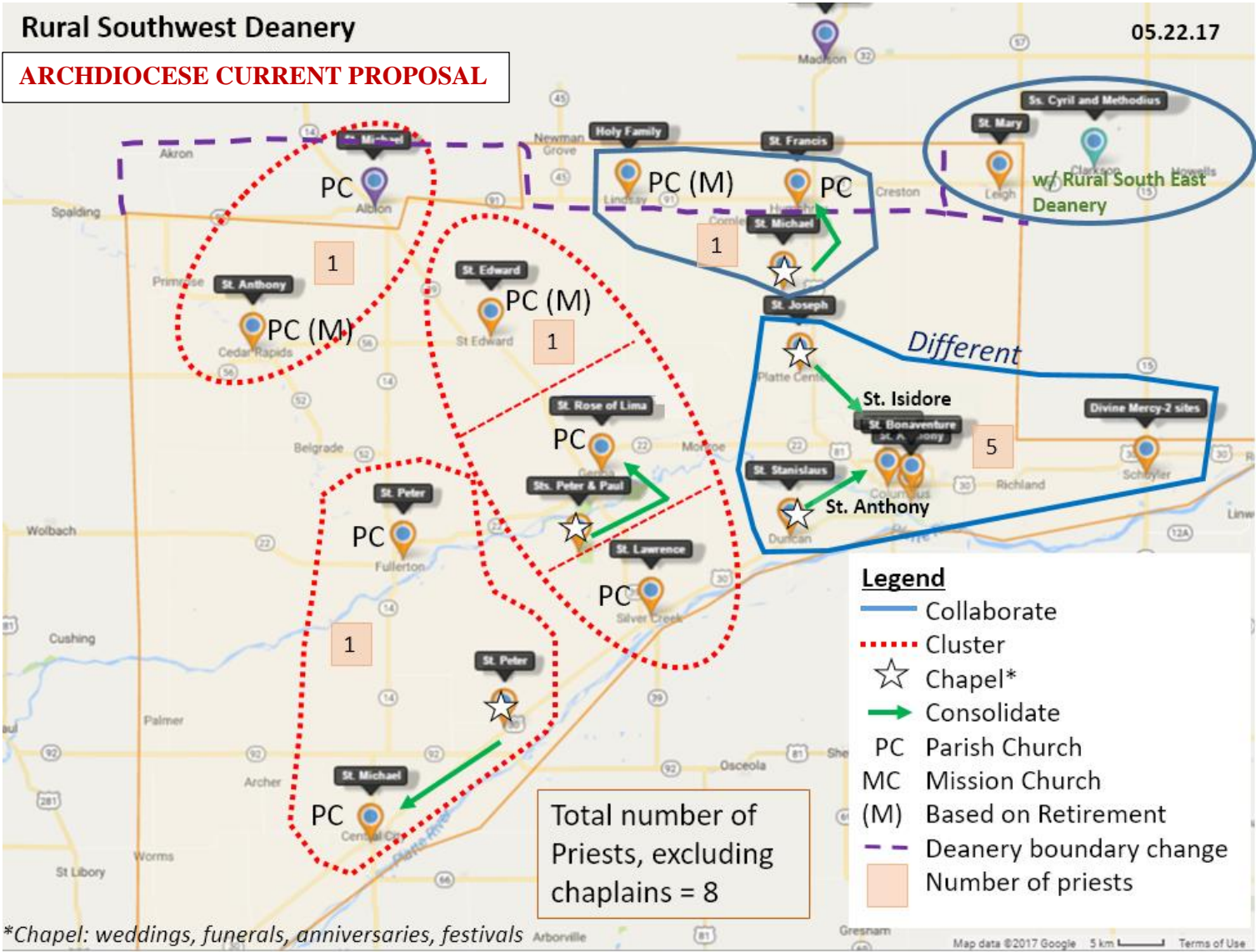


Pastoral Plan for Rural Southwest Deanery

Because of the shortage of priests, the Pastoral Deanery Committee has released a possible proposal for reconstructing the southwest deanery. The planning team is now asking for your input on the archdiocese’s current proposal (below) and two other possible options which we have put together. Please understand there has been many months of discussions which have taken place in regard to: the priest shortage, active priests, the amount of Masses, priest retirements, vibrant parishes, and demographic locations. We have also discussed vision, leadership, worship, sacraments, lifelong faith formation, evangelization, Hispanic communities, pastoral care, finances, stewardship, parish data, seating capacity, technology, implementing the archdiocesan vision, facilities, deanery boundaries, collaboration, ministries, programs, and resources to carry out the mission of the Church. It is not possible for the team to explain all the issues we have discussed at our meetings in one evening. Although you may think you have come up with the perfect plan, it probably is not that simple. There are many sides to consider, and one decision that we make for ourselves, will affect someone else’s decision.

The concern is the priest shortage and whether HF will need to share a priest with another parish in the future. This does not concern the school. Our parish and school are growing, vibrant, financially strong, and in good standing with the Archdiocese. Each of us need to continue to believe and support the longevity of Holy Family School and Parish.

Holy Family will cast a vote on which option parishioners prefer at the weekend Masses on July 8th and 9th. We will also have a few ballots in the back of church to be turned in to the parish office by July 12th.



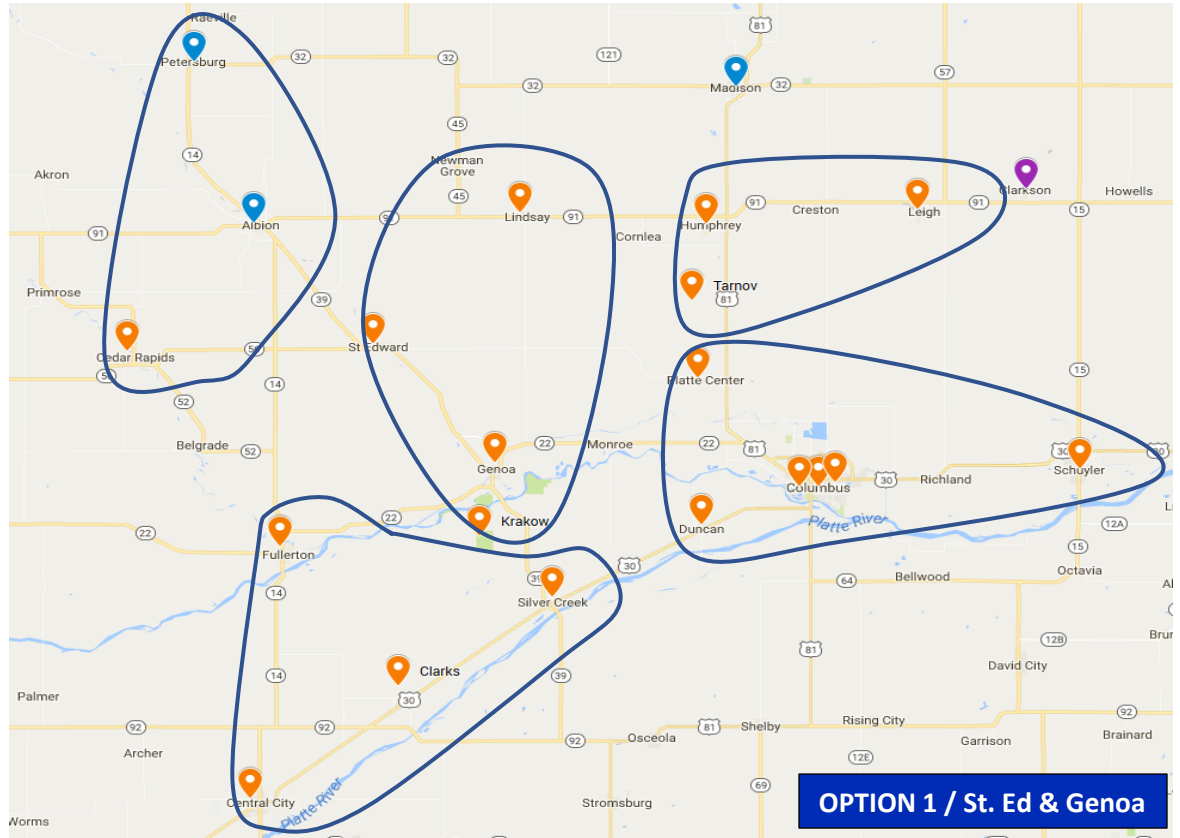
In the **Archdiocese Current Proposal (Page 1)**, we were concerned that 2 parishes, 2 elementary schools, 2 high schools, one chapel, and the addition of Madison elementary school would stretch one priest far too thin. As a result, we looked for an option that would redistribute the work.

In this remapped plan (**Option 1**), there are still 5 clusters: one cluster has 5 priests (Columbus/Schuyler), and each of the other four clusters have one priest. In general, Humphrey would evangelize eastward and Lindsay southward sharing a priest with St. Edward and Genoa. Albion would share with Cedar Rapids and Petersburg possibly.

In this remapped plan, 4 of the 5 clusters would have access to catholic education (Columbus, Humphrey, Lindsay, Albion), and there would be one priest per school.

The cluster that would not have a school in it is the southmost cluster in the deanery (Silver Creek, Central City, Fullerton, and Clarks), and therefore that cluster would be comprised of four geographic locations. We think this is reasonable since the priest responsible for this cluster wouldn't also have a school to be responsible for.

Lastly, in this remapped plan, each of the clusters would have a similar number of parishioners.



OPTION 1 / St. Ed & Genoa

Option 2 is another possibility to consider. In the past, the deacons from Albion have assisted Fr. Jim and our parish many times. They would be able to assist our parish with baptisms, communion services, etc.

Many of our parishioners currently travel to Albion for services such as doctors, dentists, eye doctors, chiropractors, etc.

Holy Family Parish has many parishioners from the Newman Grove area and Albion would be a convenient location for them.

OPTION 2 / Albion & Petersburg