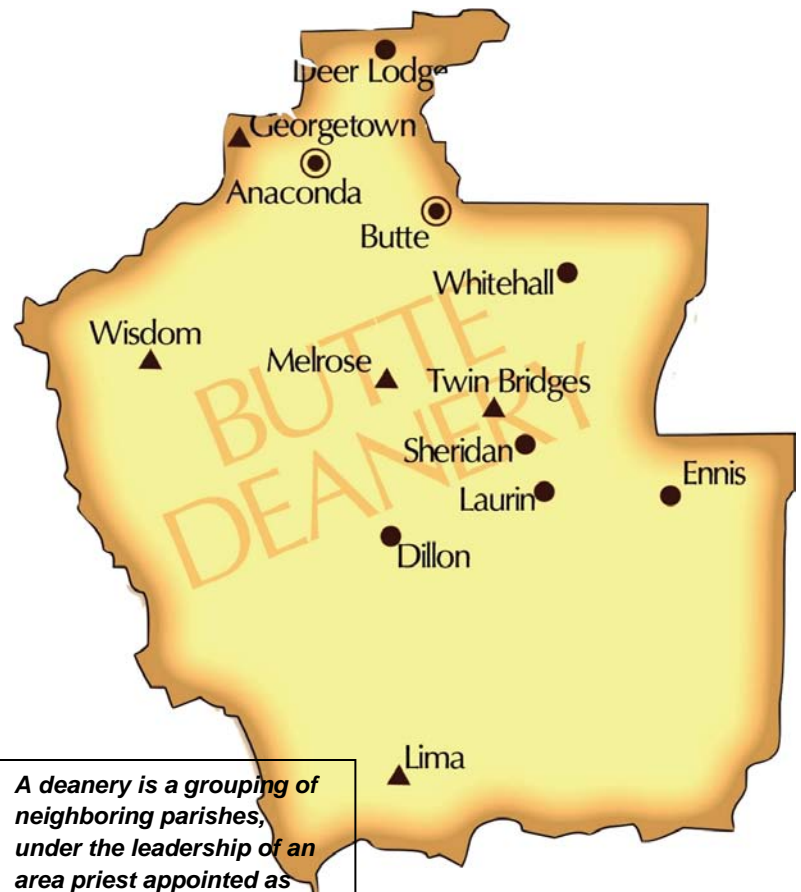


Butte Deanery Proposed Plan



Butte Deanery Map



Parish Input Process

The plan that you find below is the result of the work of a Planning Committee composed of parish representatives and Pastors/pastoral administrators from each Parish/mission in the Butte Deanery who gathered to look at the reality of providing quality pastoral care with fewer priests to serve our Diocese in the future.

The following plan is a possible roadmap for the future and, if adopted, would be used as it became necessary. Any plan would be phased in gradually, and transitions would be carefully planned and supported.

You are asked to read and prayerfully consider the plan, and make any comments or recommendations to the Planning Committee on the form provided.

For your study there is provided:

1. Copy of the Proposed Plan (below);
2. A map of the Deanery (above);
3. Listing of the average weekend attendance for the parishes/missions of the Deanery (last page);
4. A form for returning your responses to the Deanery Planning Committee (Please turn this completed and signed form to your parish by **February 8, 2012**).
5. For more information, please plan to attend your **Parish Input Meeting**—watch your bulletin for details.

A deanery is a grouping of neighboring parishes, under the leadership of an area priest appointed as Dean, joined together to foster common pastoral care for the people of God in those parishes.

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All changes would be made on an "as needed" basis. When there are fewer priests to serve the Butte Deanery, the following changes may be made:

As there are fewer priests available to serve, the proposed plan would maintain two priests to serve the city of **Butte**; one for the North Unit and one for the South Unit. **St. Joseph** church would be carefully evaluated annually following a sustainability study to determine if it remains a viable parish. St. Ann's would be the parish with St. John's

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and Holy Spirit the mission churches. Where financially feasible, there would continue to be Pastoral Administrators serving in parishes where there is no resident priest.

There would remain one priest serving the **Dillon area** churches; it would be helpful to have a priest who had some Spanish language skills or perhaps a deacon with some Spanish language skills. The plan calls for discontinuing the Mass in **Wisdom** and evaluating continuing to provide a Mass in **Lima**. **Dillon and Melrose** would be served by one priest.

In the **Sheridan/Laurin, Ennis and Whitehall** area, the recommendation is for one priest with a pastoral administrator at Whitehall. Service to the **Twin Bridges** Church would be discontinued or it would become a Church of Occasional Worship**.

Additional study would determine if the best option would be to maintain the parish in **Laurin** or to build in **Sheridan** and designate Laurin as a Church of Occasional Worship**.

There would be one priest serving in **Deer Lodge**. There was also conversation about one priest with a deacon or two priests and a supportive staff serving the Anaconda and Deer Lodge area.

There would be one priest and one deacon or, if possible, two priests in **Anaconda**.

Other Ideas important to the Planning Group

- There was energy around exploring the idea of forming a trained Team that would specialize in serving correctional institutions in the Diocese.
- This planning group advocated for finding practical and affordable ways to better use technology in reaching our educational goals.
- There is need to have professional training provided for those who will conduct the "Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest."
- There is a growing Hispanic population in the Dillon area and it would be helpful to begin to identify someone who could provide some pastoral ministry to this group in Spanish.
- The Deanery feels that they could function with a minimum of six priests.

All sites in this Deanery and throughout the Diocese will be part of a yearly on-going process to study their sustainability. Some of the aspects of this study will include a yearly look at: Parish Mass attendance, annual offertory income, debt retirement (if any), parish plant maintenance, parish and diocesan financial obligations met. It will also consider parish vitality and engagement. This study will be completed each year and any adjustments needed to the plan will follow.

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Average Weekend Mass Attendance

“October Counts” (Average weekend attendance): Each year, the diocese asks each parish and mission to do a hand count of all those attending Mass on three weekends in October. October is chosen as there is no holiday or celebration that might take people away from their parish. If there are local reasons to change this to a more “normal” weekend, we encourage pastors to do so. The numbers for the three weekends are sent to the Diocese and the average of the three is taken to get the usual number actually attending Mass on a weekend in each site. Below you will find the statistics for the 2010 “October Counts” in the Butte Deanery.

Butte Deanery “October Counts” 2010

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Anaconda Catholic Community | 616 |
| Butte Catholic Community North | |
| St. Patrick – Butte | 244 |
| St. Joseph -- Butte | 67 |
| Immaculate Conception – Butte | 295 |
| St. Ann – Butte | 750 |
| St John Evangelist -- Butte | 356 |
| Holy Spirit -- Butte | 397 |
| Immaculate Conception – Deer Lodge | 200 |
| St. Rose of Lima Parish – Dillon | 202 |
| St. John the Apostle -- Melrose | 10 |
| Our Lady of Wisdom -- Wisdom | 6 |
| Lima Mission | 4 |
| St. Patrick – Ennis | 68 (tourist season av. 100) |
| St. Mary of the Assumption -- Laurin | 55 |
| St. Joseph Parish – Sheridan | Currently no Mass on site |
| St. Teresa of Avila – Whitehall | 128 |
| Notre Dame Mission – Twin Bridges | 43 |

Definitions

* **“Clustered parishes”**: A clustered parish has a priest as its pastor; however the priest may live at another location and will be pastor of more than one community. The goal is that by clustering parishes the identity of each parish will be maintained.

** **“Church of Occasional Worship”(Oratory)**: Churches are designated as such by the Bishop for the benefit of some community or group of faithful ; Mass is not celebrated regularly on weekends but is celebrated at least once per year, usually on the feast day of the Church. Church maintenance, repairs, insurance, upkeep is supported by the local community.