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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Matt Kerr
610-871-5200, Extension 265

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DIOCESE TO SURVEY PARISHIONERS RESULTS TO BE USED IN PLANNING RESTRUCTURING, CONSOLIDATIONS

On the weekend of September 15 and 16, people attending Mass at parish churches in the Diocese of Allentown will be surveyed on the pastoral state of their parish. The results of the survey will be among the information used by the 33 Deanery Region Committees around the Diocese to make recommendations to the Diocesan Pastoral Council on the consolidation and restructuring of parishes.

100,000 surveys have been printed and mailed to the Diocese's 151 parishes. The survey will be conducted prior to the start of each Mass. Each parish's Deanery Region Committee members will be on hand to help with the process.

All baptized Catholics 16 years of age or older, who are residents of the Diocese of Allentown, and attending Mass that weekend may participate. The survey is completely anonymous. Participants will not be required to sign their name in order to fill out a survey.

The Committee for the Restructuring and Consolidation of Parishes of the Diocesan Pastoral Council developed the survey, which was reviewed and approved by the full Diocesan Pastoral Council, and the Council of Priests. Upon those recommendations the Most Reverend Edward P. Cullen, D.D., Bishop of Allentown approved it.

The survey consists of 36 questions about the parish that can be answered "Yes," "No," or "Not sure;" nine questions about the person filling out survey and three short essay questions.

Forr's Key punching Service, Inc. of Milford Square, PA, will professionally tabulate the results.