

From the desk of Bishop Edward K. Braxton.....

Pittsburgh Diocese plan will see number of parishes drop from 188 to 57 - PITTSBURGH (CNS) --

After three years of discussions, Pittsburgh Bishop David A. Zubik said the 188 parishes of the diocese will be placed into 57 groupings that will eventually become new parishes. Bishop Zubik announced the plan April 28 during a media conference, saying the effort was designed to promote vibrant faith and revitalize parishes. The announcement detailed the maximum number of weekend Masses per grouping and timelines for each grouping to work toward mergers and clergy assignments. The move to groupings -- part of a diocesan planning initiative called On Mission for The Church Alive! - were to take effect Oct. 15. No church closings are part of the plan's first phase. The groupings are expected to merge into new parishes between 2020 and 2023, however. "No matter how the church is structured, it is the responsibility of all the faithful - bishops and priests included - to make faith, hope and love remain alive in the world around us," he said in announcing the plan, the result of meetings and discernment that began in 2015.