



Archdiocese of Seattle Shares Proposed Parish Families for Input

Three-Week Public Feedback Period Opens

SEATTLE, Sept 25, 2023 – This weekend, the Archdiocese of Seattle opened the public consultation phase of its strategic pastoral planning initiative, called Partners in the Gospel. Specifically, the archdiocese is seeking input from people on the proposed parish families that were developed after nine months of consultation with priests, deacons, principals, archdiocesan employees and lay leaders.

The latest version of the proposed parish families, which pairs two or more parishes together under the leadership of one pastor and one or more assistant priests, was shared publicly so people can provide their thoughts in parish input sessions and online as part of this consultative planning process.

“My deepest hope for an outcome to Partners in the Gospel is that more and more people will be living their faith at deeper and deeper levels,” said Archbishop Paul D. Etienne in a video shared this weekend. “At this stage, we are inviting your input. ... We sincerely want to know from you, how does this sound? What are the hopes, the anxieties, the concerns that you see? How is the Lord inviting us as a people of faith in him to rise to this moment and challenge that it presents?”

Gathering Input

Over the next three weeks, parishes will host input sessions encouraging participants to listen to the Holy Spirit in small groups and discern a path forward. Notetakers will capture the themes of the discussion to send them to the Archdiocese as part of the yearlong consultation process. Feedback will also be collected in an online form through October 14, 2023, at archseattle.org/partners.

All feedback will be reviewed by multiple groups, including the Oversight Committee and Presbyteral Council, to ultimately develop a recommendation for Archbishop Etienne to review before he announces the official parish families in early 2024. The new parish families will form in July 2024 under the leadership of one pastor (and one or more assistant priests) and will spend the next three years working together to determine how to share resources, ministries and reinvigorate parish life to advance the faith as they become one new parish.

“I hope we will see all of our people constructively engaging in this process to help us advance the faith and build the kingdom of God here in the Archdiocese of Seattle,” said Archbishop Etienne.

Partners in the Gospel Overview

This strategic pastoral planning work was first [announced](#) in January 2023 to introduce people to the planning process and invite them to pray for this effort. In June, the Archdiocese shared the [Current Reality Report](#) with parish data and archdiocesan trends that show declining engagement in the sacramental life of the Church, and the urgent need for change.

To proactively address the need for change, the Archdiocese of Seattle began the Partners in the Gospel effort aimed at reinvigorating parish life. Through this work, the goal is to engage more people in their faith life, strengthen local communities of faith and help Catholic parishes advance their mission of bringing the Gospel to everyone. To learn more, please visit archseattle.org/partners.

About the Archdiocese of Seattle

The Archdiocese of Seattle encompasses all of Western Washington, stretching from Canada to Oregon and from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. There are 72 Catholic schools, and 136 parishes in the archdiocese, with more than 500 weekly Masses celebrated in eight languages. Archbishop Paul D. Etienne leads the archdiocese with his auxiliary bishops, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo and Bishop Frank Schuster. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit archseattle.org.

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