



Archdiocese of Seattle Invites Feedback to Draft Pastoral Plan

Seattle, WA, March 8, 2021 – Today the Archdiocese of Seattle released a draft pastoral plan outline, welcoming review and comment from Catholics across Western Washington. The plan includes a potential mission statement, set of core values, and list of priorities for 2021–2025. This draft outline will be used as the basis for the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) listening sessions with Catholics and leaders of Catholic ministries. All are invited to provide feedback by March 31 at archseattle.org/pastoralplanning.

“As we look to the future, consider new possibilities, and strive to make the Gospel relevant for everyone, I welcome all Catholics to provide comment,” said Archbishop Paul D. Etienne, who is planning to release the finalized Pastoral Plan on Pentecost Sunday (May 23). “The voices of the people are needed as we seek to develop the Pastoral Plan which will bring Christ and the Church closer to God’s people.”

In addition to the public survey, the APC will host listening sessions with parishioner groups from each geographic deanery across the archdiocese. This round of listening is the latest in what will become an ongoing listening effort across the archdiocese. Last March, the archdiocese launched an online survey collecting nearly 8,000 responses from Catholics across the region. This Catholic survey was followed by listening sessions in October, centered on the preliminary elements of the mission statement, guiding principles and a shared vision.

These recent listening efforts revealed several consistent themes, including:

- A desire to connect with, and pass the faith on to, both youth and young adults.
- Requests for more access to spiritual growth, catechetical and Church teaching resources.
- Interest in new approaches to keep practicing Catholics and those interested in Catholicism engaged and prepared for next steps.
- Pride in and support for many Catholic ministries, with special mention of Catholic parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Community Services, Catholic hospitals, and lay organizations like the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

“The Holy Spirit gives many gifts, which are to be exercised for the benefit of the Church. In the midst of the vast diversity of gifts, we all share the same mission,” said Archbishop Etienne. “God has graced us with amazing diversity and many gifts in this archdiocese. We must continue to discern together how to embrace this diversity and use our gifts to fulfill this mission. Jesus Christ is our life, and in him we find our unity and mission, which is not a task but is our identity as Catholics.”

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, 168 parishes, missions and pastoral centers in the archdiocese, with more than 500 weekly Masses celebrated in eight languages. Archbishop Paul D. Etienne leads the archdiocese with his two auxiliary bishops, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo

and Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit archseattle.org.

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