

**For Immediate Release**

Archdiocese of Seattle Shares Strategic Planning Decisions with Seattle Parishes

Five Seattle Parishes Will Implement Changes from Renewed Strategic Planning Effort

SEATTLE, April 19, 2021 – The Archdiocese of Seattle’s Strategic Planning Committee, led by Auxiliary Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, is beginning to implement recommendations from the strategic planning efforts in the South Seattle Deanery.

“We have the opportunity to strengthen the church’s presence and work in this region, providing better pastoral care and more effectively serving the mission of Jesus Christ,” said Bishop Mueggenborg. “We have recognized that the archdiocese’s structure is less effective now than in the past. Times have changed and so we too must change. Making some changes will be challenging, but will ultimately strengthen our mission effectiveness now and in the future.”

In the South Seattle Deanery, there are 12 priests serving 11,700 registered households in 15 different parishes. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, these parishes offered 44 Masses per weekend. After studying the deanery and the larger Catholic community, the pastors and parish leaders in the South Seattle Deanery made recommendations to Archbishop Paul D. Etienne for ways to strengthen the region’s Catholic community. These recommendations were put forth with the goal of providing stronger pastoral support, more robust evangelization efforts, and excellent Catholic education.

Based on these recommendations, the team will begin working with the following parish communities in the Seattle area:

- Immaculate Conception, Seattle
- Our Lady of Mount Virgin, Seattle
- St. Mary, Seattle
- St. Patrick, Seattle
- St. Therese, Seattle

Each of these parish communities will host parish-wide meetings to discuss the new direction and vision for their parish. While the archbishop and the Strategic Planning Committee set the vision, how it is implemented and realized will be co-created with the parishioners of each parish.

“People love their parish communities, and changes can be hard to accept,” said Bishop Mueggenborg. “I want to recognize the grief that can come with change and journey along with these parish communities. At

the same time, I want to encourage everyone to actively participate in shaping the future of the church in Western Washington so that we can all share the joy and love of Christ with others.”

Today’s Landscape

While the strategic planning process is underway in the Pierce and Seattle deaneries, other deaneries across the archdiocese are at different stages, either starting new rounds of strategic planning discussions or reviewing recommendations from completed research and planning work.

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 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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