

## Pierce Deanery – Strategic Planning/ Transition News September-December 2021 Update

*Transition News shares the latest updates about the efforts to form one new vibrant Catholic parish in Tacoma. Fr. Tuan thanks everyone who is actively working on this process.*

### General Update

All transition planning is moving forward in line with the vision to create a vibrant parish community here in Tacoma. There will be a new parish in Tacoma, which will include St. Ann, Holy Rosary, Visitation, and St. Rita, along with St. John of the Woods Mission. This new parish will have a school, currently Visitation STEM Academy and will continue offering the Vietnamese Faith Formation programs.

Father Tuan is leading this effort with the support of Archbishop Paul D. Etienne, the Strategic Planning Committee, various archdiocesan offices, stakeholders from each parish, commissions and other leaders. He expresses his gratitude to everyone for embracing this opportunity to build one new vibrant parish and school.

### Communication Update

The Communications sub-committee completed its recommendations and actions. Father Tuan appointed a new Communications Commission to carry out the recommendations and help share information across all the parishes involved in this work.

- New Communication Commission Leadership assumed (Nov 2021) – led by Bob Gummersall
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  - Members: Thom Ryng, Joni Flynn, Debbie Orlando, Kathy McSperitt.
  - Helen McClenahan (Archdiocese Support)
- Under development:
  - We distributed information about naming the new Parish. Top three names determined by the Leadership Commission to be submitted to the Archbishop for final decision. Once new name is commissioned we will begin development of Logo, Communication tools, etc, which includes reviewing and updating the websites.
  - The list of people who are homebound and wish to receive a mailed bulletin or other outreach services has expanded.
- What's coming up:
  - Live broadcasting of additional Masses to be offered
  - Weekly Parish Letter to include Committee updates
  - After live Mass POD Casts
  - Changed in Communications published information to "Transition Express"

In addition to the Communications Commission, Fr. Tuan appointed a Joint Pastoral Council with Louis Tran as Chair, Joint Finance Council with Bob Richardson as Chair and a Liturgy Commission with Thom Rying as Chair and Rick Keller-Scholz as secretary.

Currently one of the issues we are facing is around scheduling. We have 2 permanent deacons and 5 sisters on staff assisting Fr. Tuan with various Ministries and Administration at this time. We are covering Masses and other services with the assistance of 7 retired or visiting priests.

### **Facilities Update**

Currently a new Building Committee is being formed. Members will be working with Fr. Tuan, the strategic planning team and the school leadership to discuss the needs of the Catholic School, which is a STEM school focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The team is also connecting the various groups who currently use the existing building to discuss their needs for a Faith Formation Center.

Concurrently, the team is also exploring funding options, which may include the possible sale of other buildings, donors, grants, loans, and a capital campaign.

### **School Subcommittee Update**

The School Subcommittee had 3 meetings to discuss school needs moving forward, facility needs and communications, in partnership with the Leadership Commission, Facilities Committee and the Building and Construction team at the Archdiocese.

Multiple meetings held to review the facility needs looking forward; calendaring; timeline and communication challenges with an unknown move date.

### **Faith Formation Update**

See Liturgy information update

### **Finance/Stewardship Update**

No current update. This subcommittee has not met.

### **History/Archives Update**

Initial work around Sacramental records and plans for how to merge records is complete. Next phase will focus on how to merge furniture, artwork, etc.

### **Liturgy Update**

The Liturgy Subcommittee has completed their work. Recommendations made by the Liturgy Support Subcommittee for the autumn of 2021. Adopted as principles:

- Orthodoxy – fidelity to Catholic teaching

- Faithfulness – to Scripture, Tradition, Magisterium,
- Reverence – for God and the sacred,
- Obedience – to the rubrics and words of the Missal and the other ritual books,
- Active participation – engaging the ministers and assembly,
- Beauty – that in the noble simplicity of the rites we may touch hearts, and
- Transcendence – that we may lift those hearts to God

New periodic article to appear in the Bulletin to support seasonal, Feast Day and Solemnity incites.

### **Outreach Subcommittee Update**

Currently the subcommittee is focusing on:

- Homebound ministry, which will include 5 nursing homes.
- Supporting the upcoming vaccine clinic at St. Ann's parish.
- St. Ann, St. Vincent DePaul and Visitation's Ministry of The Poor spent time at each other's facility to explore the operational working of each.
- Visitation Ministry of the Poor to share collection of non-perishable foods collected through a reinstated annual food drive of a local school.
- Working to identify the support to be offered to the Homebound: visits for sharing Communion, Bulletins, Parish information and the Food Banks, with other Outreach support. Definition of each's support functions to be defined.

### **Survey Results from All Parishes:**

All parishioners of the 5 parishes were invited to take a survey. Surveys for each Parish were inconsistent and not completed by entire Parish as one community.

### **Hospitality Committee**

Currently, this team is working on:

- Welcoming people at doors with donuts.
- Following up on the survey and inviting people to various ministries.

### **Diversity Committee**

This team hasn't yet begun work.