



Archdiocese of Seattle Launches Current Reality Report Data trends indicate urgent need for change

SEATTLE, June 12, 2023 – As part of the Partners in the Gospel strategic pastoral planning process, the Archdiocese of Seattle has issued a Current Reality Report. This report, prepared by PartnersEdge consultants, provides an overview of parish annual report information, archdiocesan trend data and demographic forecasts across the Archdiocese of Seattle, which covers 24,000 square miles in Western Washington. The report and corresponding presentations are available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

“The data clearly outline the urgent need for change in how we are approaching parish life today,” said Father Gary Lazzeroni, Vicar General and co-leader of Partners in the Gospel. “Most people don’t realize we’ll only have around 60 pastors in the next 15 years – or that many parishes are operating with a deficit.”

“Most people’s experience with the Catholic Church is through their own local parish community and this report helps demonstrate how we are truly part of a larger Catholic family,” said Caitlin Moulding, Chief Operations Officer and co-leader of Partners in the Gospel. “We must balance our resources – people, finances, buildings – so that we can effectively re-envision how we show up as the living Body of Christ in today’s world.”

Key Data Revealed

PartnersEdge compiled multiple sets of information from parish annual reports, archdiocesan teams, and other public sources of data to highlight several key areas, including:

- Mass counts and registration
- Sacramental and formation trends
- Parish finances
- Priest and pastor projections
- Catholic school trends
- Demographic changes and forecasts

“Our hope is that the Current Reality Report leads readers to better understand why we’ve embarked on this journey of change,” added Father Lazzeroni. “People will see the sharp decline in parish engagement over the past few decades, coupled with the lack of resources, which requires us to rethink how we are carrying out the mission of the Church today.”

The Current Reality Report and corresponding video presentation were shared at parishes the weekend of June 10-11 and can be found on the archdiocesan website, www.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 174 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 auxiliary bishops, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo and Bishop Frank Schuster. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit www.archseattle.org.

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