PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL

Current Reality Presentation
June 2023
Agenda

• Research overview
• Snapshot of the Archdiocese of Seattle
• Trends
• Next steps
Research process

- Annual report data
- Mass counts
- Attendance data
- Collections revenue
- Catholic Schools data
- Census data
Today’s snapshot
Archdiocese today

- **136** parishes
- **26** missions
- **12** stations
- **10** deaneries
- **2** camps
- **1** retreat center
- **4** Associated Catholic Cemeteries
By the numbers

July 2021 – June 2022

- Infant baptisms: 2,250
- First communions: 3,313
- Confirmations: 3,704
- Funerals: 926
- Total marriages: 361

226 Catholic   135 Interfaith
Priests
As of May 1, 2023

- **161** Total archdiocesan priests
  - **80** Pastors
  - **62** Senior status

- **92** Diocesan priests working in a parish

- **26** Extern priests (from other dioceses)

- **30** Religious order priests

- **13** Seminarians
Now
Total population across the Archdiocese is growing

5-years
An already diverse population is projected to become more diverse over the next 5 years

10-years
Population growth is projected to slow down
Projected 5-year population growth is less than 1/3 of the previous 10-year growth
Current demographics
Between 2010 & 2022 across the Archdiocese

+18.8% Total population growth
Grew from 5,031,644 to 5,977,553

Fastest-growing age cohort:
65 and older
16%
Grew 67% from 589,489 to 1,004,032

Largest generational cohort:
Millennials
25%
1,563,612 or 25% of the total population
Demographics: in 5 years

Population growth

+2.7%
Will grow to 6,140,000

65 and older
16%
population will grow 16% to 1,161,000

Millennials
25%
will still make up 25% of the total population at 1,563,000
Current demographics

Between 2010 & 2022 across the Archdiocese

Total population growth

+18.8%

Grew from 5,031,644 to 5,977,553

White population

62%

Grew 2% from 3,631,643 to 3,719,186

Persons of color

27%

Grew 57.8% from 960,813 to 1,587,258

Hispanic population

11%

Grew 52.8% from 439,189 to 671,109
Demographics: in 5 years

Population growth
Will grow to 6,140,000

+2.7%

60% White population
will grow 0.1% to 3,722,000

28% Persons of color
population will grow 8% to 1,715,000

12% Hispanic population
will grow 4% to 702,900
Catholic Demographics

Median age across the Archdiocese: 39
Median age of all registered parishioners: 56

Median age of registered parishioners is 17 years older than the median age of the general population.

Registered households are declining while general population increases:

-7% decline of registered Catholic households since 2017
63% of registered Catholic households reside within Seattle-Tacoma urban area
Mass Attendance
Between pre-pandemic years 2010 - 2019

Mass attendance declined 11%
Mass Attendance
Between pre-pandemic years 2010 - 2019

Mass attendance as a percentage of total registered parishioners declined 40% to 35%
Mass Attendance

Between pre-pandemic years 2010 - 2019

Church facility utilization declined from 52% to 46%
Sacramental trends

- **Baptisms**: -32%
- **First Communions**: -7%
- **Confirmations**: +586 in late 2019 after change in confirmation age
- **Weddings**: -18.5%
- **Funerals**: -4.5%
Youth Formation Trends

Faith formation enrollment was declining and then was severely impacted by Covid.
Overall Catholic School enrollment is flat

Since school year 2015-2016:

• Grades K-8 Catholic student enrollment declined -4% from 13,224 to 12,684

• Grades 9-12 Catholic student enrollment grew +7% from 2,395 to 2,567

By school year 2032-2033, we project grades K-8 enrollment will decline -0.9% to ~12,500 and grades 9-12 enrollment will grow +7.0% to ~2,700
Long-term financial sustainability of parishes is uncertain if we continue to rely on extraordinary income.

- **Percentage of Parishes operating a deficit**
  - (excluding extraordinary activity)
  - 64%

- **Parishes relying on more than Sunday contributions to fund ministries & pay staff**
  - Contributions increased a modest 1.6% over the most recent five years

- **Many parishes relying on non-operating income to break even**
  - Including facility rental
Priest trends: Ordinations

Estimated average number of ordinations per year: 2

Appx. number of priests over next 10 years: 20

Estimated number that will become pastors in 10 years: 10

Remaining 10 will become parochial vicars
Priest trends: Pastors

11% Percentage of current Archdiocesan priests eligible for retirement now

36% Percentage of Archdiocesan priests eligible for retirement in 10 years

60 Est. number of non-retirement age Archdiocesan priests eligible to be pastors in 2032

Our history indicates 50-75% will become pastors in the new parish family configurations
Pastoral resources are declining, and current structure of parishes and pastors is not sustainable.

Parishes are “living beyond their means,” while struggling to support staff, ministries and outreach.

These factors affect the faith experience of parishioners.

A significant restructuring as well as re-envisioning appear to be required.
We need to change so we can re-envision parish life and better achieve our mission as Church.

“The status quo is no longer an option.”

-Archbishop Etienne
Now what?
Archdiocese of Seattle

MISSION

Jesus said to his disciples, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” MATTHEW 28:18-20

VISION

ENCOUNTER
Encounter Jesus Christ and one another.

ACCOMPANY
Accompany each other, as one human family, on the journey of discipleship.

LIVE THE GOSPEL
Live the unconditional love and joy of the Gospel.
Archdiocese of Seattle

RE-ENVISIONING PARISH LIFE

Strategic Planning
- Governance & Leadership
- Administration, Infrastructure, & Finance

Pastoral Planning
- Worship & Prayer
- Community
- Discipleship
- Mission & Evangelization
The journey to vibrancy

Currently 136 Parishes

Parishes Form into Parish Families

Each Parish Family Becomes One Parish
Partners working together

• All grounded in discernment
• Consultative process so everyone has a voice
• Parish families will form based on input and prayer
• Archdiocese assigns pastor and parochial vicar(s) and provides guidebook for planning and ongoing support
• Opportunity for great creativity!
History of change

- **1838** First priests arrive
- **1850** Diocese of Nesqually founded
- **1856** Sisters of Providence arrive
- **1904** Cathedral moved to Seattle
- **1900s** Local church grows rapidly
- **1951** Seattle elevated to Archdiocese
- **1970s** Second Vatican Council reforms
- **1980s** Growth in multi-cultural ministry
- **Today** Global synod
History of change

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Timeline

- Launch
- Consultation
- Parish families announced
- Parish families form
- Parish families discern & plan
- Form 1 Parish

- Jan 2023
- Spring/summer
- Fall 2023
- Early 2024
- July 2024
- 2024-2027
- 2027
Phased approach

**Phase 1**
WELCOMING

**Phase 2**
RESTRUCTURING

**Phase 3**
RE-ENVISIONING
Next steps

• Priests are currently providing input on the parish families.

• Parish and school staff will provide input on family configurations in August and September.

• Everyone invited to provide input end of September through mid-October.
  • Local parish meetings
  • Online survey form

• Archbishop reviews recommendations, discerns, and promulgates the new families in early 2024.
Together

The focus is creative re-envisioning to help people know Jesus Christ.

We need you on this journey.

- **Listen** to the Holy Spirit.
- **Pray** for this effort.
- **Engage** with your parish.
- **Provide** your input.

Together we can renew our local Church.
Stay engaged

• Read the Partners in the Gospel UPDATE newsletter
• Read Northwest Catholic
• Watch for new bulletin inserts

https://archseattle.org/partners
Thank you!