



October 2024

## Embracing Change for Christ

What started as a vision two years ago is now a reality with parish families beginning to get to know each other. In these first months, we have heard stories of God’s grace leading our parish families through the inevitable challenges and struggles that come with significant change. At the same time, we are also hearing many hopeful stories of communities going above and beyond to welcome each other, staff members jumping in to help with issues at a different parish, beautiful celebrations of people coming together, people returning to the Church for the first time in years – and much more.

During this time, it is important to remember that this is not a race. Everyone is encouraged to go slowly to really get to know each other, listen, consult and build relationships. We are also reminded to stay grounded in the true purpose of this effort: *to help people encounter the love of the Risen Christ and to embrace the mission of sharing that love with others, especially the most vulnerable among us.*

### The WHY behind Partners in the Gospel

A Special Message from Father Gary Lazzeroni,  
Vicar General

*“We are carrying this burden of change because we want to be better at forming missionary disciples. We want to offer beautiful and prayerful liturgy experiences to help people deepen and nourish their encounter with Christ. We want to inspire our people to be formed and shaped as the living Body of Christ, bringing the love of Jesus to the world, especially to those on the margins. This is why we are doing this. We are restructuring now so we can spark and fuel people’s faith so that they can go out and share the light of Christ.*

*During all the logistical and administrative work of restructuring, let’s not lose sight of that. Thank you for your partnership to re-envision the Catholic Church in Western Washington!”*

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[archseattle.org/partners](http://archseattle.org/partners)**

### Parish families continue to welcome pastors and parochial vicars

Grace and hope abound as parish families welcome new pastoral leaders and staff begin to get to know each other as part of the Partners in the Gospel journey.



*Holy Family and St. John Vianney (Kirkland) welcomed Pastor Fr. Bradley Hagelin and Parochial Vicar Fr. Val Park (pictured above) earlier this summer.*



*Our Lady of Fatima, Sacred Heart of Jesus, and St. Anne (Seattle) welcomed Pastor Fr. Patrick Freitag (pictured above) and Parochial Vicar Fr. Dominic Tran.*



*Parishioners from St. John the Evangelist, St. Benedict and St. Alphonsus (Seattle) welcomed Pastor Fr. Colin Parrish at the all parish picnic.*



*Staff from St. Anthony and St. Stephen the Martyr (Renton) gathered for an all staff retreat, led by Pastor Fr. Bryan Dolejsi.*