



**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

UPDATE

November 2023



Thank you to everyone who provided input and feedback on the parish families during the recent public consultation phase of Partners in the Gospel.

More than 800 people provided comments online, while nearly 140 parishes and missions hosted in-person sessions in several languages including English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Q'anjob'al, a Mayan language indigenous to Guatemala. In total, the Archdiocese of Seattle received more than 700 input session reports resulting in more than 3,000 pages of input.

Overall, the sessions were fruitful. Staff, lay leaders and parishioners listened to the Holy Spirit and provided their input on their proposed parish families.

Over the past few weeks, all collected input - by notetakers during the in-person sessions and from the online feedback form - was sorted by parish family. Each set of parish family data was read by two people who wrote a synthesis including any proposed changes, concerns and hopes for the new parish family.

This synthesized reports, along with the raw input data, were used by the Oversight Committee, the Presbyteral Council and the Partners in the Gospel team to inform the next draft of proposed parish families. Specifically, of the 61 proposed parish families, 25 were recommended for changes based on this recent consultation.

Public Input Phase results in changes to 25 draft parish families

There will be a second round of consultation with staff and parishioners with these 25 proposed parish families before a final recommendation is submitted to Archbishop Etienne at the end of the year. The final parish families are expected to be announced in early 2024.

A Parish Family Feedback Report of public input was released on November 16, 2023 with a letter from Archbishop Etienne, thanking everyone who participated in the public input process. Read Archbishop Etienne's letter and Parish Family Feedback Report online at archseattle.org/partners.

What do you hope for?

Here's what your fellow Catholics wrote online during the public consultation phase:

- Hope that the younger people will be motivated to serve the church and answer the call to the priesthood/religious life.
- We hope it serves as a wake-up call about the difficult temporal realities the Church faces in Western Washington in the present context. We hope there is genuine renewal through the process, though we admit to a certain trepidation that it will be disruptive to many people's habits of Church attendance and the routines which support a life of faith.
- My hope is that we focus on the key elements of our faith — love God and love one another. Some of the wrangling over the less important part of our faith serve to distract us from loving one another as Christ loved us.

"What do I want for my children's children?"

Not a 20 person Mass, not pastors overworked, but rather a fully engaged parish. This isn't about us, but about everyone.

— Fellow Catholic

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