



+ March 8, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

I wish each of you a blessed Lenten journey. During Lent we are in a time of renewal. It is a time for us to focus on the cross where God's love is revealed and where the gift of salvation is won for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Much like Christ's death and resurrection, our Archdiocese of Seattle is going through its own journey of change as we engage in the strategic planning process to renew the Church in Western Washington. As I mentioned before, our efforts are focused on creating vibrant parishes with faith-filled communities.

Thank you for your continued efforts and for taking time to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance, courage and strength as you continue to bring together your communities. I was very encouraged by our meeting on January 13, 2022. Listening to everyone's feedback, questions, personal stories and desires for the future was incredibly helpful and a beautiful demonstration of a community accompanying each other. You are all witnesses of Christ and together acting as the Body of Christ. This gives me such great hope for the future.

During our time together you asked specific questions, upon which I have reflected and provided answers in the accompanying document. We have already shared my opening comments from that meeting and I hope the rest of your community has been able to read them. I want people to understand that as a shepherd, I am providing a vision for the future. This is not my vision. After much prayer and discernment, I know God has a better future in store for us.

Please know that we are in this journey together. I am with you. My team is with you. Your parish leaders are with you. You are with each other. Together, let us work to build the kingdom of God and share Christ's message with the world. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle