



St. Rita of Cascia Catholic Church

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November 21, 2020

Re: Pierce Deanery Strategic Plan

Dear Parishioners,

This letter accompanies Archbishop Etienne's letter which outlines a new configuration of parishes for Tacoma. I realize that Saint Rita Parish has been in a state of transition for a number of years now. And yet, it seems that a bit more is in store for everyone involved. However, I trust that the Deanery's strategic plan is the best one to address both the future needs and realities of Saint Rita and other parishes as well. The pandemic has shown us that despite trying times, we can meet the challenge. As the Church has always done, we are now called to adapt to ever changing circumstances concerning pastoral ministry. Together, the Catholic community in Tacoma cannot just survive and maintain, but thrive, grow, and lead others to Christ. The Deanery's plan enables us to do so effectively in the years to come.

One of the things I know to be true is that none of this comes without a lot of prayer, discernment, thinking, and reflection. The result is a bold, innovative, and much needed pastoral plan for Tacoma. Currently, ten Archdiocesan Tacoma parishes operate in various parish groupings. In light of the current realities of the number of parishioners, changing demographics, the current and future number of priests, and the nature of the parish and school facilities, the Deanery plan will result in the following four groups of parishes:

1. Saint Charles Borromeo Parish & School
2. Saint Patrick/Holy Cross Parishes & School
3. Saint Leo/Sacred Heart Parishes
4. A New Tacoma Parish & School (comprised of Saint Ann, Saint Rita, Visitation, Holy Rosary, & Saint John of the Woods as affiliated parishes)

Archbishop Etienne has asked that parishioners of the five parishes noted in the new plan be active participants in planning for the new parish. To begin, all Saint Rita parishioners are invited to attend a Zoom informational session on **Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m.** A meeting invitation will be sent to all parishioners with instructions for how to attend via your computer, phone, or device.

Until then, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at fr.dmulholland@saintpats.org (253-383-2783 ext. 4102). In addition, Debbie Orlando and Marla Grassi have volunteered to assist Saint Rita parishioners in the transition process. You can reach Debbie at debbie.orlando@gmail.com (253-759-7040) and Marla at mdgrassi@yahoo.com (253-678-2510). They will be happy to answer your questions and give you additional information.

May God's blessing be upon this endeavor. Saint Rita, pray for us!

In Christ the Lord,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Mulholland". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Rev. David Mulholland
Pastor