



St. Therese Parish

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm writing to follow-up on the letter we received from Bishop Mueggenborg about the strategic planning process underway across the archdiocese.

While this process is not a "new" activity, we are in a renewed effort. For the last few decades, pastors and parish leaders have come together to examine the needs of the faithful in certain regions. These planning efforts sometimes resulted in changes to Mass schedules, new ministries, the creation of new parish communities and more. Today, these planning efforts resulted in a set of recommendations to Archbishop Etienne for changes to parishes in our region that will help strengthen the Church and its effectiveness.

It may be surprising for some of you to see St. Therese on the list of parishes affected by this strategic planning process – especially for families who have been part of this parish for many years. After reviewing our own parish community needs and realities, we found that over the past 20 years, our parish membership and sacramental activity (Mass attendance, infant baptisms, first eucharist, adults converts and marriages) have either stagnated or decreased at alarming rates.

Due to this, the recommendation for St. Therese Parish is to be consolidated with St. Mary Parish (July 2022), expand its evangelization work to the immediate neighborhood and grow into a revitalized Catholic community while keeping its relationship with Immaculate Conception for the foreseeable future. I will be asking several of you to be part of a stakeholder team to help guide these efforts.

We will be hosting a parish-wide meeting on May 13, 2021 from 6:00pm – 7:30pm to share more about the strategic planning efforts, trends in the archdiocese and the vision for our parish. We will share the research and factors that led to the recommendation and we'll ask for your additional questions. I encourage you all to attend this online meeting to learn more and actively participate in this planning process.

While change is difficult, we must remember a parish is a community of believers, not a building or a single ministry. It's a group of people coming together to spread the Good News of our Lord. It is my true belief that we will grow stronger as a faithful Catholic community if we examine the greater needs of Catholics in this region and work together to serve them. Please know that I continue to pray for you and I ask that you pray for this process.

Let us implore the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us to come together in Christ's name to carry out his mission here in the Madrona Park and beyond.

Sincerely,

Fr. Maurice Mamba
Priest Administrator