

# Pastoral Planning in the Archdiocese of Seattle

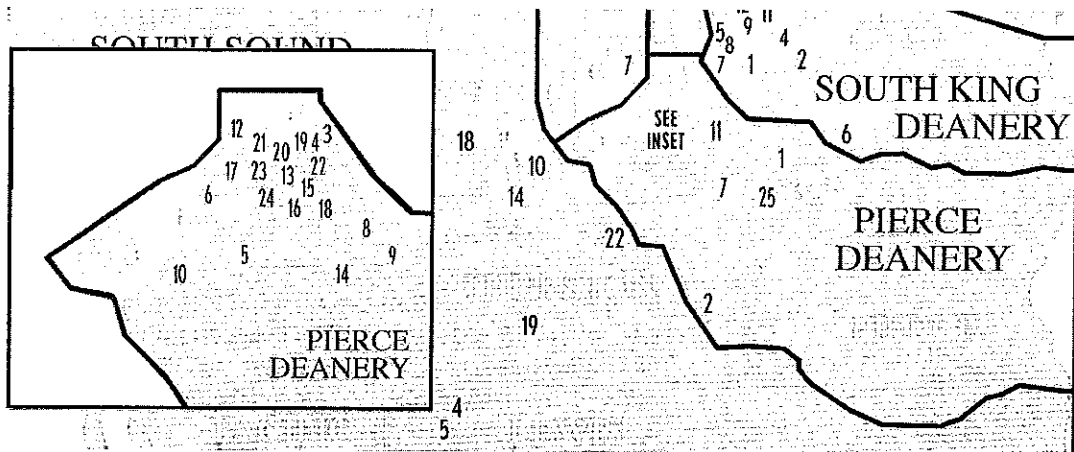
*"The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers."* Joy of the Gospel #28

For most of us in the parishes of Pierce County the deanery system within an archdiocese does not directly impact our lives. At times of planning for the future, such as now, it becomes a very useful boundary for determining pastoral care and placement of leadership.

The planning process initiated by the Archdiocese of Seattle is designed to ensure the best possible pastoral and spiritual care of the people of God. The process was affirmed by the archbishop, priests and parish leaders in 2014. Our growing population and a limited number of priests increases the urgency of the process.

The process will identify the most effective distribution and assignment of parish priests, the optimal number and times for daily and weekend Masses and the best location for parishes to assure pastoral care. The Archdiocese of Seattle currently has more parishes and fewer priests than it did 35 years ago. In 1980, there were a total of 204 parish priests (130 pastors) serving 130 parishes and 35 missions. Today there are only 160 parish priests (111 pastors) to serve 146 parishes and 27 missions.

The question is: What is the best way to create "an environment for hearing God's word" throughout our deanery, the local church in Pierce County?

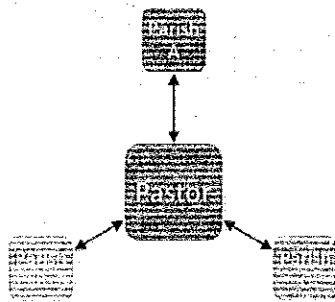


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|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Buckley: St. Aloysius                | 10 Steilacoom: Immaculate Conception | 19 Tacoma: St. Joseph            |
| 2 Eatonville: Our Lady of Good Counsel | 11 Sumner: St. Andrew                | 20 Tacoma: St. Leo the Great     |
| 3 Fife: St. Martin of Tours            | 12 Tacoma: Holy Cross                | 21 Tacoma: St. Patrick           |
| 4 Fife: St. Paul Chong Hasang          | 13 Tacoma: Holy Rosary               | 22 Tacoma: St. Rita of Cascia    |
| 5 Lakewood: St. Frances Cabrini        | 14 Tacoma: Our Lady Queen of Heaven  | 23 Tacoma: Sts. Peter and Paul   |
| 6 Lakewood: St. John Bosco             | 15 Tacoma: Sacred Heart              | 24 Tacoma: Visitation            |
| 7 Orting: Sts. Cosmas and Damian       | 16 Tacoma: St. Ann Church            | 25 Wilkeson: Our Lady of Lourdes |
| 8 Puyallup: All Saints                 | 17 Tacoma: St. Charles Borromeo      |                                  |
| 9 Puyallup: Holy Disciples             | 18 Tacoma: St. John of the Woods     |                                  |

## Potential Parish Models

Current parish structures will remain in place until a pastoral change — such as the loss of a pastor or parish priest — necessitates implementation of a new parish model. Any change in a parish's pastoral model will follow consultation with laity and staff. What could new models be? **(See reverse side)**

# Potential Parish Models

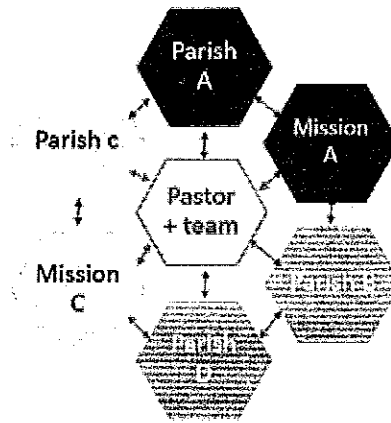


## Parish Affiliations:

Two or more parishes share one pastor. Each parish operates independently with separate staffs, programs, Mass schedules and consultative bodies.

## Parish Collaboratives:

Three or more parishes/missions are led by two or more priests as a pastoral team. Parishes retain their name and mission. Some functions are shared, Mass schedules are coordinated, some staff are shared and consultative bodies are made up of members representing each parish.

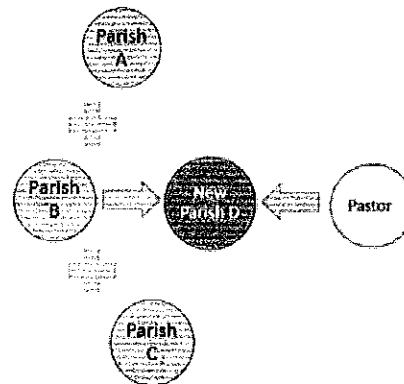


## Parish Blending

While honoring their distinct history and traditions, two or more nearby parishes are blended to create one new parish on a single campus. The blended parishes would be served by a single pastor who may be assisted by another priest. Parish leadership would be blended and schools reviewed for possible consolidation.

## Pastoral Coordinator

A parish is led by a lay pastoral coordinator named by the archbishop with responsibility for pastoral administration. The sacramental needs of the parish are served by a priest (e.g. a senior priest or a religious priest who has other responsibilities) who has a consistent presence in the parish.



## Parish Closure

Parish closures will be pursued only as a last resort. If parishes are closed, parishioners will be invited to join neighboring parishes.