



+ May 10, 2021

To my Brothers and Sisters at St. Rita of Cascia,

Peace of Christ be with each of you.

As many of you know, Archbishop Paul D. Etienne requested parishes in Pierce Deanery work together to develop one new, vibrant, mission-focused Catholic community that joyfully shares the Gospel, celebrates the sacraments, welcomes new parishioners, offers faith formation, provides outreach ministries and much more.

Strategic planning work to realize this vision is well underway with Stakeholders and subcommittees starting to meet and developing high-level plans. Reports from each of these groups will be forthcoming. We recognize that the strategic planning process will take time and we will be taking several steps along the way towards the formation of the new parish.

One of these steps involves your parish community at St. Rita's. As you know, there are many factors that went into the decision to include St. Rita in the formation of the new parish. Factors included geographic and demographic changes, priest personnel availability, parishioner engagement, sacramental trends, finances and much more.

Given current realities, and as the next step in the plan for St. Rita's to join the new parish community, all regular ministries at St. Rita's will cease as of July 1, 2021. St. Rita parishioners will still retain their positions as Stakeholders and as members of the subcommittees to ensure the richness and beauty of St. Rita, its Italian heritage, and its deep roots in the community are represented and infused into the new parish.

Also, I have heard that you were looking forward to celebrating the parish's centennial in May 2022. This is an important milestone in the parish's history. Therefore, I encourage you to plan for this centennial celebration in St. Rita church. You will want to work with your pastor in making preparations for this important moment.

I want to personally thank St. Rita's Stakeholders and members of the subcommittees who are representing your community and advocating on your behalf. Their work is greatly appreciated and will undoubtedly help foster a strong and vibrant Catholic community in Tacoma.

Please pray for everyone involved – especially your leaders and fellow parishioners who will journey with you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and give us the grace to work together building a stronger Catholic community grounded in the mission of the Church. As always, you are in my prayers.

With every best wish and an assurance of prayer, I remain,  
Yours in Christ,

*+ Daniel Mueggenborg*

Most Rev. Daniel H. Mueggenborg