

One Parish Planning
Parish Family Brainstorm Sessions Synthesis
“Who is God Calling Us to Be?”
Holy Cross, Saint John Vianney, Saint Patrick

During our brainstorm sessions, parishioners in the Tacoma | Vashon Parish Family shared valuable insights regarding the future of our parish community. Participants discussed their hopes for new ministries and programs that could be introduced to strengthen our parish family. At the same time, parishioners emphasized the importance of maintaining certain existing programs that have proven meaningful and impactful. These collective thoughts and suggestions will serve as a foundation as we move toward envisioning our new One Parish Family.

Throughout the brainstorm sessions, parishioners from Holy Cross, Saint John Vianney, and Saint Patrick voiced several common ideas and priorities for the future of the parish family. These thoughts reflect a collective vision for unity, outreach, and spiritual growth. A few thoughts:

- Synchronize the training protocols of liturgical ministers, altar servers and sacramental classes such as Confirmation
- Occasional Masses that include active participation from the youth
- Welcoming/Community Visiting Committees – reach out to new members and facilitate visitations to the hospitalized and homebound
- Service Projects – find ways to assist in the care and welfare of those in need
- Establish monthly introductory sessions for Couples for Christ. Ministry includes programs for: Couples, Singles, Youth and Widow/Widowers
- Expand Spiritual Formation offerings – provide more educational opportunities, invite speakers, organize retreats
- Focus on the vibrant existing ministries and share these across the locations

During our sessions, participants considered how the current church properties could be used more effectively. A recurring suggestion was to rotate special Masses and events among the different church locations. This approach would allow each church to host unique gatherings, fostering community engagement and shared experiences across the parish family. This will require more extensive assessments of the buildings to determine what maintenance and upgrades might be necessary to host the activity.

Parishioners recognized several potential challenges that may impact the success of realizing the goals identified. Realistically the shortage of priests; funding and committed lay leadership are essential for implementation and both present ongoing difficulties for the parish family. Another challenge highlighted is the need to effectively utilize multimedia communication tools to ensure information is shared across all parish locations. Addressing ferry and transportation issues related to the island remains an important concern when planning parish-wide activities and events. Another concern is space limitations to conduct retreats with overnight accommodation along with providing information about the features and capacities of the different parish family buildings. Others expressed concerns about potential loss of identity and long history of parish life. Parishioners expressed concern that changes may be difficult for some members of our communities to accept, which could make the transition challenging.