This year of our Lord 2026 marks a new phase in our life together as one larger Catholic community. After prayer and reflection, speaking with leaders within the various communities and a nomination process as well, I have asked nine people from a spectrum within the life of the Church to serve on our new Parish Family Advisory Council.

| Mary, Queen of Peace | St. Joseph | Our Lady of Sorrows |
|---|---|---|
| Chris Morgan | Barb Merchant | Isabella Laguna |
| Rey Gereda | Tony Cruz | Bill Whitaker |
| Bernadette Coughlin | Amy Morris | Katie Smith |

I am grateful for their yes. They have the special task of assisting me during these next two years to reflect on our gifts, to ask who God is calling us to be, and how to bring that about, as we work toward becoming a single parish and helping shape what that will look like. Their purpose is not to represent particular communities in this discernment or to advocate for particular outcomes, but to be open to where God is calling all of us together. It's what we should always be doing at our best as disciples of the Lord. This can only happen through prayer, listening, dialogue, and engagement, as our work will not be in isolation.

**This weekend, we are launching the second phase of our journey together. The PFAC and I want to hear from you about the strengths and gifts of our individual parish communities which have helped you grow closer to Jesus Christ.** While future opportunities will include listening sessions for deeper engagement with one another, this is a question that can be answered with a survey. I ask you to spend some time reflecting on life in your particular parish, the blessings you have received or seen, and to share the gifts and charisms with us. These are ways in which God has been at work, an important foundation. The survey will be open for three weeks, closing on April 3rd. Paper copies will also be available, though we ask as many as possible to use the online survey to make data collection easier.

https://archseattle.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/7551/responses/new

We are also launching a Partners website to share more information throughout this process. Each of the parish websites will link to a single webpage where we keep everything up to date, instead of duplicating efforts on each parish site. This will be hosted on MQP's website given they have the most time dedicated parish communications staffing. Find out more information at www.mqp.org/partners

We will post Partners Q&A, process information, PFAC meeting minutes, parish information, as well as the documents produced by the PFAC along the way – such as a summary of the Gifts Survey.

Thank you for keeping the PFAC in your prayers, and yourself being open to where the Spirit is leading us, as we become more and more disciples of Jesus Christ, and his apostles to the world.