PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL: WHO ARE WE?

A thank-you, and a first look at what you told us

Who are we as a parish family? That was the question at the heart of this first phase of consultation. The goal was to build a shared understanding and appreciation of the history, the people, the gifts, and the ministries at the center of each of our parishes, and to explore the opportunities and challenges we face today.

Thank you to the nearly 200 of you who completed the survey and the dozens who joined our listening sessions. This is a summary of what we heard.

What we treasure most

Your answers were remarkably united. Again and again, you named:

1. Community and belonging: a welcoming, "like family" parish (named by nearly 4 of every 5 of you)
2. The Mass and sacraments: reverent, prayerful worship
3. Service to others: our food pantries, St. Vincent de Paul, the Giving Tree
4. Music and our choirs
5. Our young families and children

Each community's gifts shine, too

- St. Jude: a welcoming, diverse parish, rich in ministries, with beloved priests and reverent worship.
- Holy Innocents: a "can-do," service-rooted family known for its pantry and its beautiful valley grounds.
- St. Anthony: an intimate, historic parish (100+ years) where the bilingual Mass and close-knit care are treasured.

What you're asking for

You were honest about our challenges, and hopeful about our future. Most of all, you asked us to welcome and invest in the next generation, our youth and young families. You asked us to keep faith formation and the sacraments close to home, to be open and transparent as our finances and plans come together, and, as we unite, to protect what makes each parish special.

Where we are, and what's next

This is just the beginning of our journey together, unfolding in three phases:

Phase 1, "Who are we?" (now):

The survey and listening-session input summarized here.

Phase 2, "Who does God want us to become?" (late October, November):

Through more surveys, listening sessions, prayer, and discernment, we'll ask where the Holy Spirit is guiding us. This input will help the Parish Family Advisory Council draft a One Parish Plan for how our three churches will work together as one family in the Snoqualmie Valley and Redmond.

Phase 3, Feedback on the draft (Spring):

We'll seek your feedback on the draft plan before submitting it to the Archdiocese next Fall.

Please stay tuned, and above all, please pray that the Holy Spirit guides our parish family throughout this journey.

Thank you for your honesty, your faith, and your love for this community. Please keep this journey, and one another, in your prayers.