



Pope St. John XXIII Parish

**Archdiocese of Seattle**

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March 24, 2026

Dear parishioners,

Recently we have received word of several social media posts related to Holy Rosary that are incorrect. I want to make sure you have the facts about the situation instead of relying on rumors.

As you may recall, the Vatican revoked the first decree to relegate the church of Holy Rosary to profane but not sordid use. This revocation was not due to the merits of the decree, but due to an administrative procedural issue. Specifically, the Presbyteral Council meeting was held as a hybrid meeting, which was a remnant of COVID practices, and should have been held in-person.

Instead of simply consulting again in-person with the Presbyteral Council, Archbishop Etienne asked me to once again reach out for input about a viable plan for the building. Several entities submitted plans that were all reviewed and vetted by the building subcommittee. Members only met with members from Save Tacoma Landmark Church (STLC) and Domus Dei Porta Coeli (DDPC) who brought forward proposals to ask follow-up questions.

Per the social media posts, I want to confirm that the parish leaders, along with Bishop Frank Schuster, met with members from the STLC group and a separate entity called DDPC, which put forth a proposal as well.

Unfortunately, none of the submissions provided a strategic long-term plan for how to sustainably maintain the church building. As such, the subcommittee made a recommendation to me to once again request relegation of the church. The Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and I agreed with their assessment and put my recommendation forth to Archbishop Etienne.

He consulted the Presbyteral Council again and ultimately drafted a new decree to relegate the church building to profane but not sordid use. As with decrees of this type, parishioners have the right to appeal. An appeal was made and it is still under review at the Vatican and we do not have an estimated timeframe for when we will hear back on a decision.

The Vatican communicates with the Chancery and the parish via hard copy letters. As soon as we receive a new letter with an update, I will be sure to let you know.

I would also like to address the status of St. Rita. Parishioners there appealed the decision to merge into Pope St. John XXIII Parish in 2022. Their appeal was rejected by the Dicastery for the Clergy at the Vatican, but they have further taken their appeal to the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura. This tribunal is the highest court at the Vatican. We are still awaiting the decision of the Apostolic Signatura, and I will let you know if we receive any word on this.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tuan Nguyen, D. Min. Pastor