



Immaculate Conception

820 - 18th Ave
Seattle, WA 98122
Tel. 206-322-5970

April 10, 2021

Dear Parishioners of Immaculate Conception,

I'm writing to follow-up on the letter we received from Bishop Mueggenborg about the strategic planning process underway across the archdiocese.

While this process - is not a "new" activity, we are in a renewed effort. For the last few decades, pastors and parish leaders have come together to examine the needs of the faithful in certain regions. These planning efforts sometimes resulted in changes to Mass schedules, new ministries, the creation of new parish communities and more. Today, these planning efforts resulted in a set of recommendations to Archbishop Etienne for changes to parishes in our region that will help strengthen the Church and its effectiveness.

It may be surprising for some of you to see Immaculate Conception on the list of parishes affected by the strategic planning process - especially for families who have been part of this parish for many years. After reviewing our own parish community needs and realities, we found that over the past 20 years, we have been on a downward trend in parish membership and sacramental activity (Mass attendance, infant baptisms, first eucharist, adults converts and marriages) despite the remarkable demographic growth in the Seattle Central District Area.

Due to this, the recommendation for Immaculate Conception is to revitalize our parish, expand our evangelization work and grow by becoming more of a neighborhood parish while keeping our current relationship with St. Therese for the foreseeable future. I will be asking several of you to be part of a stakeholder team to help guide these efforts.

We will be hosting a parish-wide meeting on May 12, 2021 6:00pm - 7:30pm to share more about the strategic planning efforts, trends in the archdiocese and the vision for our parish. We will share the research and factors that led to the recommendation and we'll ask for your additional questions. I encourage you all to attend this online meeting to learn more and actively participate in this planning process.

While change is difficult, we must remember a parish is a community of believers, not a building or a single ministry. It's a group of people coming together to spread the Good News of our Lord. It is my true belief that we will grow stronger as a faithful Catholic community if we examine the greater needs of Catholics in this region and work together to serve them.

Please know that I continue to pray for you and I ask that you pray for this process. Let us implore the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us to come together in Christ's name to carry out his mission in the Seattle Central District and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Maurice Mamba". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and "M".

Fr. Maurice Mamba
Priest Administrator