

Parish Family Input

Parish: Saint Mark (Shoreline) Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023

Notes from the Group:

Round 1: What concerns were shared about the proposed family grouping? What challenges might this pose?

- Different cultures between different parishes.
- Have and have nots, if one parish has more money.
- Lots of distance between the parishes in one family.
- Different flavors of parishes
- Can one priest cover, this large of a parish, even one priest, or vicar?
- Different priests, develop different groups of parishioners.
- Respect for different cultures, impact on the school's enrollment
- Students enrolled already established relationship
- Upheaval of friendships
- Saint Mark's Classical curriculum versus other curriculums combining
- If church is closed and still have school, how do the students attend mass?
- Combination means lots of unanswered questions.
- Testing the one universal church – politics of different groups - tribal mentality
- This effort is going to exasperate the situation because of all these concerns - counterpoint is that people who stay are more committed.
- Painful process, just like surgery. Slash recovery is hard.
- That, no matter what we say, archdiocese will decide anyway. Hard to believe that our voices count, no reasons given for decisions.
- Timing of announcement comma, folks trying to fundraise and feel to cut off.
- Change is going to happen. I'll roll with the punches.
- We've got to change. We can either go with it or not. I've never been anywhere else other than the saint mark. His parents were married here and he was married by Father Sullivan.
- I'm not interested in going to Seattle's Saint Catherines
- I think people [parish?] with most people will have the most power

- I'm concerned about being outvoted by other parishes and people
- When I don't go to Saint Marks, I go somewhere near, not New York
- Concern about equity and decision making, Saint Catherine's school is double the size of Saint Mark and Saint Matthew
- I share concerns about location and convenience and fears drifting away. Our parishes have been formed prayerfully. God may be leading us another way.
- Is this being open to what god wants?
- I need a decent mass time at decent location (He lives in echo lake) I could go to St. Luke's, closer. I know great people at St. Luke.
- The biggest problem is not enough priests - can lead to reducing parishes, but if it's a problem of fewer people coming to mass, we can address that without reducing parishes.
- There are 266 kids in Saint Catherines, but few people attend Mass on Sunday weekends, less than 250
- It only makes sense if the plan is to close Saint Catherines. They are not going to drive to Saint Marks if they don't even go to Mass at their own church
- It makes more sense to be matched with Saint Pius.
- Why don't they just pick churches that aren't doing well and close them, let people go to whatever church they want.
- It seems like we need to take a step back from these dramatic change now
- We're in a lull in people going to church, but i think there'll be a rebirth later
- Transportation: how do I get there?
- Getting to know each other especially in the other parishes.
- Do other parishes have problems with stairs obstacles. Schools and students. Saint Catherines has a school huge school compared with St. Marks
- Church buildings staff organizations within each parish, ie Saint Vincent de Paul conference, schools, Knights of Columbus
- Suggest to go to other churches, to get to know their communities and organizations and coffee hours etc.
- Make a plan to carpool to another parish for mass and coffee hour where nametags let them know who we are from saint, mark. Challenges to get out of our comfort zone.
- Willingness to volunteer to work on all ministries to help and volunteering. Must interact with our own parishioners at coffee hour.

- Many of the older parishioners have problems with driving at night, again, transportation problems with volunteering at various parishes.
- Inclusion of all nationalities. As far as masses and Spanish, maybe celebrations of other cultures. 75 percent of saint mark, kids are from practicing Catholics.
- Best thing is to accept the changes, do our best, be positive and pray a lot.
- Where will we attend Mass
- Which community can maintain a church? Saint Catherine's is an old church.
- Which community would increase attendance and lower maintenance costs.
- Future of religion, in church - concerned.
- Don't know where Saint Catherine's is located
- Youth groups should be a priority
- Will there be one main church or how to structure family.
- Lacking teenagers and youth. Grouping further hinders this problem.
- If Saint Mark is point parish and if people have to travel, will lose parishioners
- Everyone resists change.
- Uncertainty
- Saint Catherine should be aligned with Our Lady of the Lake to make two parishes in a family.
- And Saint Marks and Saint Matthews combined with Carmelites, Saint Mark's pastor helps at Carmelite monastery.
- Strength - reading program at St Marks.
- Three churches - identify parishes' strengths.
- What are the strengths of all three parishes.
- People follow the pastor.
- What are the other three parish concerns for getting together? Will though just will the concerns be discussed together?
- We need to be ready to welcome new people to the church. The families from Saint Mark need to be prepared to change.
- Concerned we will lose people from the church.
- Each church has their own community.
- Logistics.
- Uncertainty.
- Concerns for other parishes.
- Concern for people leaving church.

- Fewer parishioners.
- Less money.
- Increased pastor responsibility concern.
- Affecting mass times.
- Due to demographics and geography, the parishes that are merging. And too far apart. It should be Saint Matthew, Mark and Luke not Catherine
- Culturally Mark, Matthew and Pius are closer and are all geographically close.
- I agree. It has been 60 to 70 years since these parishes were founded because they didn't like Seattle culture.
- This woman was a Saint Marks parishioner since the 70s and agrees because encompass the same.
- Saint Luke, Saint Mark and Saint Pious are geographically logically to be merged
- Matthew, Mark and Pius are good at geographically
- Transportation, elderly, and attrition.
- Grouping. Don't know, others? Liberal versus conservative. Priests & vicar – liturgical concerns
- Living our faith and teaching.
- Pragmatic: distance and geography.
- Accessibility - bus
- Choice preferred is liturgical.
- Echo of the geographical concern.
- Question of configuration and location.
- School and classical education here
- challenge of the schools and the future generations.
- I don't think the grouping with Catherine works for Catherine
- Too close to Blessed, Sacrament people would go to Blessed Sacrament
- I'm within shooting distance of Saint Mark – it would be a challenge to go to Saint Catherines, even longer to go to Saint Matthew - otherwise would have to go to Saint Pius if I don't stay here
- No comment. This is just reorganization. As long as we have access to the sacraments
- Challenge: need to make others feel welcome from other parishes.
- Saint Mark is unique: close to freeway, doesn't have hootenanny mass.

- Follow the money - measuring stick. If we have consistent collection to pay bills that means it must be attractive to new people
- Every parish is different, very pastor handles things differently. We don't have eucharistic ministers. How come together with other parishes? Can we get to know each other? Might close some
- What are the differences in socioeconomic makeup, particularly Saint Catherines. Feel like really different communities. If farther, south huge distance will lose parishioners
- If moved from Saint Mark, students will lose friends in school and school, not doable. Couldn't participate even midweek. would be disrupted if move from Saint Mark
- getting older - convenient to drive here at Saint Mark
- Would have to get a ride if moved. Harder to get to Saint Catherines
 - would see a big drop 33 percent if this goes there. Have to pray.
- Too far to go to Saint Catherines. If people have to drive far, they may change churches or stop going to church. Older people don't feel like making big changes.
- It is a long way. Geographically many won't travel the distance.
- Traffic lights, residential, commute distance travel mass time age of parish.
- Our near parishes are closer into Snohomish county than king county.
- Why can't we be joined with a parish closer geographically such as Pius X (Mountlake Terrace)
- Cultural difference such as conservative versus younger. Could propose challenge. Fear addressing symptoms, not the issue.
- Size of church buildings
- How will communications continue?
- Loss of parishioners.
- Hope for open hearts and revive.
- Saint Pius seems more viable.
- I don't care how this works out. I'm catholic and we'll find mass most logical grouping schools. Make a difference.
- I want it to reflect our values and location.
- Something has to close unviable as it is. Maybe three becomes two.
- Distance between churches; hopeful that Saint Mark becomes primary
- All people love their parish go. Check them out. Lots of getting to know.

- Parish life and church life, liturgical liberal, and fundamental styles.
- Why aren't we reviving more concerned about finances? (Vatican?)
- Finding priests from other countries
- Concerned about it being a long process and to get to know each other and forming a community.
- One pastor being able to serve three parishes if churches closed people having a hard time to commute.
- Losing our pastor (is that set in stone?)
- availability of masses. Losing the pastor
- Concern if Saint Catherine goes with a different group.
- Mass – can good scheduling prevent.
- Church closures.
- Losing more souls because people won't be able to come to masses. Masses without priests are not the same.
- Concern that the schools were not given enough priority in the decision, making process missing a huge opportunity.
- To capture and retain our youth.
- Being able to drive to mass wherever it is
- Saint Catherine's is too far away
- Saint Catherine's is a ways away - many steps to climb, difficult to get into
- Organizations involved in (St. Vincent) - other things differently, organized concerns how things will change and not being able to keep up with it.
- If she can't keep up with it, switch to Saint Pius - 89 years old, 63 years of saint marks. Afraid that saint pious is not a good fit for her. She's been there six to seven times before.
- Will be a practicing catholic. No matter what. We'll never leave the church
- Where will we celebrate Mass together? How to get to Saint Catherines. Worried about the rest of parishioners – will they just go to a neighboring church. How they deal with changes, like schools - people don't like change. She doesn't like the three-year plus process. Just wants to know where to go. Looks forward to different groups, ethnicities coming together.
- Would hate to see this backfire if it doesn't work confusing. Will young people come.
- Distance, one of main concerns would go to a church of closest proximity

- Money was looked at not distance.
- Saint Matthew is a different community than saint marks.
- Three completely different communities is a challenge
- Not all will agree with changes - very different liturgies (guitar)
- Combining schools - distance, buses, classical catholic school, very important.
- Not going by car for 40 minutes to drop off at north gate in a rush hour traffic plus four minutes. 40 minutes back.
- Different discipline at Saint Matthews. Issues with this are serious there.
- Children's safety is a priority
- Loves Saint Mark, the organ, family
- Grouping - money issues, who gets money. Schools bake sale. Divvied up.
- Life at this parish is starting to come back. Momentum. Coming back - wishes for two-year wait for this process says to start.
- Lots of people will leave the church with the change.
- Apartments are being added. Where are they going?
- Same concerns distance: in parish grouping - Saint Catherine's is way out of life for us, different liturgies, prayer approaches, Saint Catherine's very different.
- Money: How it's used? Always want a say.
- Knights, ladies' group, schools – concerned, how to mesh these? Agreed upon things, where we're not all arguing. How?
- Concerned: family grouping is so vertical people will go to nearest group.
- Not concerned about grouping. St. Mark is bigger (size, attendees), should remain flagship. St. Matthew is most vulnerable, probably becomes chapel. St. Catherine is also small (church), school is viable. Simple migration to/from St. Catherine. Mark & Matthew could consolidate parish/school, tuition of even half could cover current shortfall. Teachers need to be best available, not necessarily honor longevity. Classical school should be preserved.
- Biggest concern besides uncertainty is loss of group, of Catholics in the parishes. COVID, scandal has led to dwindling, concerned shake up will cause fallout of people comfortable in their ways. Other problems we can find solutions for, especially following Christ. People will vote with their feet.

- Greatest concern is loss. Already lost significant because of COVID, people just need an excuse to leave and this will provide them a reason. Each church is sitting around thinking their own is the best. St. Mark's is consecrated, the others are only solemnly blessed. Concerned about this being misinterpreted in the past (thinking all are consecrated). "Making sausage is messy, but the end result is beautiful."
- Keep thinking about sexual abuse scandal; why are we closing and all the money is going to that? Loss of parishioners is concern, especially older people. People come a long way to St. Mark because they love it. Classical school program is confusing, could be either a plus or negative for other schools. People might want a regular, non-classical school. Can't understand if churches will be used for chapel or main church; makes no sense to spend money to keep up the church. Church is the building, stuff we keep up. Came here for music, no other church has the music we have. Church and music are beautiful, don't like St. Catherine or St. Matthew music. Organ is a big deal, can't see us losing that.
- Been away from church over 50 years, recently back, lots of changes since then (women distributing communion!). Thought church was evil, found way back, getting used to everything. Not sure what to say.
- Going to be hard to combine schools. Even though it would be great to have St. Catherine families here at school, don't think it's going to happen. Distance is too far for a family. Concerned about having a pastor be in charge of 3 schools, even initially, even if drop to 2 or 1 later. Thinking some churches will barely see a priest, administrative burden placed on priest/vicar.
- Feel have a bit of naïve take. Can drive to another church (building), not concerned about that. Concerns about those not strong in faith hitting breaking point. Personal concern about music, recognize it's minor issue compared to others, but becoming something I'm not comfortable with. More concerned about people losing their faith.
- With hearing about the other parishes, there is a concern about how the different kind of communities will combine. For instance, how will the large portion of non-Catholic students at St. Catherine school combine with the others. How will more 'liberal' parishes merge with parishes that are more 'conservative.' St. Pius would be a better match for us at St. Mark, in combination with St. Matthew.

- Are “they” going to use this input to “sell” it to the other parishes? Is the proposed configuration already a done deal?
- Not too concerned.
- Who is going to facilitate merging?
- Need more information and answers in order to ask appropriate, key questions.
- Doesn’t want to lose the kind of liturgy and music here at St Mark Church.
- Concerned about the clash of cultures of the other parishes to St. Mark’s.
- Concerned about combining liturgies and music (styles of the proposed parish alignment).
- How to keep parishioners coming?
- How to combine music style?
- Why are we (having to) do this?
- Determining the choice of the best church building(s) to keep.
- Difficulty in combining the various buildings in the parishes.
- The choice of clergy (pastor, vicar) who is the best fit for the task (abilities, skills) for the new family,
- A concern that could add to the loss in parishioners: The perception of St Mark Parish is somewhat biased, based on its historical reputation. The parish is not orthodox or extreme traditional, certainly less than that. St Catherine’s might have the view that St Mark is never going to be compatible. This could adversely impact all three parishes.
- The image that St Mark has, could also affect the choice of pastor and vicar.

Round 1 summing up: What themes did we hear in Round 1?

- Cultural loss - flavor loss- in general.
- Fear, feeling that we might not be heard
- impact on school
- Sharing
- Differences
- Respect
- Transportation
- other cultures
- get to know other parishes, plus our own people
- parish facilities.

- Cultural and liturgical
- school
- elderly
- geography
- Assistance
- Living our faith.
- Distance commute getting there
- Driving
- Breaking up community
- Aging of population and driving
- Going to have to sacrifice something
- Breaking up relationships.
- Geographical and age or culture of parishes
- Church private versus parochial lack
- Diocese leadership and transparency.
- Distance
- liturgical life
- pain is probable
- Saint Pius X as an option
- Most things distant
- School combined
- we all agree on communities very different
- losing their character
- teaching methodology is unique.
- Loss of parishioners
- liturgical practices
- school
- cost
- Uncertainty
- Exhilarating
- Fear
- Welcome
- Living-in-interesting times

Round 2: What hopes were shared about the proposed family grouping? What opportunities or possibilities might this offer?

- Schools could get bigger comma more resources for specialists and electives with more dollars

- Less parochial, more open and similar mission & goals, less territorial
- Bolstering capacity for supporting activities and vocations
- More younger families that could be included
- Financial resources with combining and shared resources.
- Fuller masses
- More excitement and energy
- More robust school drives a robust parish and family
- More opportunity, less stressed out, people trying to make men's ends meet
- Less burden on priests more community
- opportunity to learn about other cultures
- Foster vocations promoting more involvement, more young adults
- Opportunity for more age groups - especially younger.
- Exciting to me, the opportunity to help poor and needy and taking assets the church has and sharing between them, sharing them a better.
- If you sell the app sets, what if you need them later on?
- If you have a rebirth of people and interest and you sell assets, you faced problem, In reverse.
- The positive is to be in a large more vibrant parish - we're not as vibrant as we used to be.
- There is a niche to be filled as countercultural.
- What has happened in other dioceses?
- I hope it will be a good connection.
- The best thing is to stay together within the new parish.
- If there are not enough parishioners at perishes, we can do something about it.
- I hope saint. Mark, parishioners stay together and connected.
- I hope it opens us up to learn from one another.
- I hope we can take advantage of the successful vibrant school for our own students.
- I hope we can take advantage of the strength of each parish.
- I hope we could combine St. Vincent de Paul conferences.
- More vibrant, active parish, people drawn to it.
- Get to know other Catholics parishes, should enrich our own parish life, instead of getting discouraged, except the changes and be positive
- Hope, new opportunities in activities, people.

- Accept that it's going to happen. Look at it as a challenge, coping, positivity, look forward.
- Learning how to meet new people and make new friends, new priests to get to know.
- Have an open mind, look to the future for the greater good.
- Opportunities and possibilities more time to listen to other viewpoints and gathering together with others, joining groups, committees, funeral committees. Look to the future, not to the past.
- We travel more these days, so we all have opportunities. We all have experience in other cultures countries, etc. so more opportunities to know of how other parishes work.
- Have a positive outlook with opportunity for learning going forward.
- Hoping all parishes are forward looking.
- Increase attendance possibly
- More monetary support
- Classical school versus traditional schools
- Saint Mark aligned with Saint Matthews and Carmelites
- Saint Catherines align with Our Lady of the Lake
- Parents can't afford catholic schools.
- Distance between three proposed parishes.
- Volunteer concerns.
- Opportunity to focus on more youth with new programs between parishes.
- Easier to start new programs with more new people.
- Hope to embrace possibilities and stick through process to make it work. It will take time. Those who make it through the process may be our strongest members.
- Most people saw Saint Matthew, St. Mark, and St. Pius as advantageous
- culturally Shoreline. Mark and Luke is a "Seattle Outside" culture
- Geographically Luke, Matthew, Mark, Pius make more sense. Note, Pius and Seton groupings are far larger
- Numerically problematic would be Saint Pius and Saint Luke.
- Good things.
- Youth group, important
- healing between parishes
- bigger church parties.
- Valentine's dances

- More vigorous lay associations, bible study guilds nights youth school, newsletters communications
- Saint Matthew and Saint Mark compared to public schools.
- Economy of scale – capitalize on strength of combined, talents and treasure.
- Ministries, more robust/new ministries
- Good opportunities in the long run - new ideas and meet new people.
- Like-minded people and same faith and beyond.
- Possibility of youth mass.
- Larger population - support more activities and more outreach.
- More roles for laity. New blood with enlivened ministries.
- That they all get along
- Hope enough restrooms
- Deacon for each parish to get along better (liaison)
- Need more deacons, could be real important
- Opportunities: stronger school
- Maybe one or one in three campuses
- Common goal
- Hope with more people, more fellowship people to be together
- We have groups, but more people equals more times for meetings, get together.
- Opportunity to grow revitalized parish more music variety
- Combination will create more youth opportunities, focus on youth and young adults
- Pastor and vicar need to be enthusiastic.
- Fellowship for priests
- Larger attendance at mass more collaboration of groups - Knights of Columbus, Saint Vincent de Paul, to serve the needy
- Opportunity for more non-sacramental ministries
- Laity in involvement and communication.
- Hope is Saint Mark prevails; schools increase in size; revitalizing the church
- Group stuff more people more choir members rebrand the church improve. On the community live, your faith, hope for a new fresh breath and life in the parish body, catalyst for Catholic strong. Make it the best it can be.
- I am not concerned.
- I hope for more young people.

- This is a conversation starter. What activities do you want? And participate in it
 - Deepening of “Catholicness”
 - school revival more Catholics.
 - Greater understanding of life in the Holy Spirit and what we can make out of it.
 - That the process will turn out great.
 - Hoping that we will make the right decision particularly in the grouping.
 - Hope that the church is strengthened and that people are committed and more outreach and more volunteering.
 - Remaking the church. As we see fit.
 - Hope that we can band and come together with a new purpose and a soft heart towards one another and more creative fundraising
 - Excited about diversity and new opportunities with other ministries and people with other interests,
 - Help people to realize the value of our priests, and the value of all people that lay people can maintain their faith in God.
 - Hoping this will invigorate people to get involved and fight for the health of their parish and especially the schools.
 - Saint Mathews is close, easier to get to, some go to both
 - our school's classical approach is unique, hope it stays there.
 - Hope to mesh pleasantly
 - Draw different programs - what's good and form cohesive participation, grow existing groups.
 - Forming group to visit other two, parishes - get feeling of parishes.
 - How to merge diversity between here and Saint Matthew's cultures - hopefully mesh.
 - more ethnic celebrations, diversity
 - money increase would be nice
 - Saint Matthews weddings
 - Fantastic acoustics
 - All other churches come to Saint Mark – best at one
 - likes saint marks liturgy
 - Active in many groups, same people increase participation
 - New group,
 - Saint Mark has biggest building – have Mass here makes sense
 - How to accommodate other parishes?
- More people at church is a positive - many empty pew

- diversity makes us more.
- Faith and process - it will happen. Be flexible willing to compromise.
- diversify us more
- Increasing is a good thing, participation.
- Hope we do well on positive
- Build on strengths pray, go with open hearts
- Other two parishes going through this as well
- Add a diversity voices perspectives
- Number of children, - maybe different grades at different schools.
- looking forward to lay groups within communities
- Only so many leaders burnout is a problem
- Rotate leadership from larger group of people.
- Agree with others - trust God, right?
- Thing to do is to accept changes – the more positive, the easier it will be
- Possibly go to Saint Catherine's, if necessary
- more opportunities, it's going to happen. Of course, we want our church to the max
- Reach out to the other churches. Opportunity, contact them.
- Try to get good connection with them.
- Aware that our new pastor will need all of our support, be there for him if he needs us.
- Hope the parish will have a say in who the new pastor is. Used to be a board to share ideas, qualifications, profile of parish. Always at the center, a serious effort to evangelize the Catholic faith. Chance to put the best priests in the pastor positions, and the best ones here. We want an orthodox priest, should be reward that most orthodox priests are made pastors.
- Challenges are great. We'll have obstacles we've never seen before, and if people put their best foot forward, it will work. Hope people can go by Christ's rules; will be damage if not.
- Not normally an optimist. St. Mark's is pretty viable, we're being paired with parishes that aren't. If we bring the best of the people here, the more people you have, the more energy, volunteers, excitement, it's contagious. It's gonna take some time but we'll come out like a phoenix from the ashes, better than before. We'll be smaller as a church (in Seattle) but more dynamic, more vibrant. Bible says, "If you're lukewarm, spit 'em out". I think it says that.

- I think the most important will be the finances will be improved. The people who are still going to be with the group are going to be more positive and more thriving members of the parish. The people will want to be here, and in turn will provide more money. Also the volunteers; we'll have more people willing to share all the things Father needs help with and speaks about. We have mostly white but a lot of Filipinos here, but not a lot of Hispanic people here, and St. Pius does, I kind of thought we'd be with them. St. Catherine is pretty much white, St. Matthew is pretty diverse.
- What I see has changed is there's actually more love, rather than fear. We were, I think, controlled by fear. I haven't heard a hell sermon in years. Growing up there was a lot of fear, and now I think there's more love and it's more inclusive (women on the altar!). I see that as positive, I see the Catholic church as going in a positive direction, that's why I've come back, because of the love I've experienced. I don't know about this combining thing, maybe non-Catholic students will become Catholic? I think it's a good idea. I think it's much better now, a lot kinder, less fear.
- I'm not that hopeful, frankly. I want to be hopeful. I think a lot of people will leave, and I understand some are lukewarm, but my fear is there are committed Catholics that are older, and traveling and getting to know a new parish is going to make them stop going. I do believe it makes more sense to consolidate some administrative tasks and staff. You don't need to replicate things at every single building. "Reduced redundancy."
- I'm worried at this parish, we have kind of an us vs. them mentality, an elitism with how we're so "orthodox" and "conservative" with our approach to faith. I fall under similar lines, but not the elitism. We're worried about "good Catholics" vs. "lukewarm Catholics" we don't care about, and other parishes that don't have as many Catholic kids as us. My hope is, seeing St. Matthew, an increased diversity, not just in culture but in mindset, with how they approach the faith. I agree with our conservative take, but practically speaking, we don't have all the right answers, it seems naïve to think that. I hope we can get a greater perspective.
- I hope combining parishes will reignite communities. I hope for more volunteers. A bigger demographic. Larger number of young adults. Bolstering the ministries we already have set up. In general, revitalizing community life, the parish life. I hope that those who

choose to stay with our parish and the faith will lead to greater involvement in the parish.

- Opportunity to consolidate assets.
- Hope for more efficient management.
- Hope to have full churches, with young people, including crying babies (ie, young families).
- Wear a smile on everyone's face (side effect of grouping). (ie, be friendly)
- More people in St Mark Church will help improve acoustics.
- Concerned over who is in charge.
- Improve attendance to keep things alive.
- That parishes in the family will bring and share the strengths each has.
- Concern over losing people from the parishes within the family, when the realization that some things may lose what one has been used to.
- Is there an opportunity for the choice of a good pastor?
- Recognize the opportunity to reinvigorate the kind of faith it was meant to be. IE, lasting for over 2000 years, apostolic.

Round 2 summing up: What themes did we hear in Round 2?

- Money
- new ideas
- Solvency
- more vibrant church
- standing room only
- hope
- excitement
- more diversity for students
- Economies of scale
- Diversity
- Robust ministries
- Revitalization
- Carpooling/transportation/minivan.
- Adoration
- Protecting orthodoxy
- Building new communities, making new friends.
- Revitalize growth

- Cultural exchange youth opportunities, and social opportunities
- music variety
- Pastors and vicar's fellowship
- Hope
- revitalization
- improved community school enrollment
- Dynamic
- Vibrant
- Diverse
- new perspectives
- People who care
- Financially advantageous.
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What additional input did the group provide?

- We should be partner with Saint Pios as we have a similar culture instead of Saint Catherine
- We suggest as an alternative family: Saint Mark, Saint Pius, Saint Luke.
 - o Geographically closer, founded by a brotherhood built around the same time.
 - o We go to one of these churches, when we can't go to St. Mark
 - o We're less likely to drift away since we still live in the neighborhood near them.
 - o Saint mark and St. Luke are in the same school district.
 - o Since we live close to them, we see them more often in work and play at stores, etc.
 - o We have bonds already shared and formed.
 - o It's a natural alignment.
- Transportation. With a positive attitude. Anything is possible.
- We were all one parish. At one time, we have to want it to work. Keep a good positive attitude, patience, prayer.
- Open mind, learn from each other, pick up all the various pieces and put it together for the common good.
- Saint Catherine's is a little too far away and they might be thinking the same of us. If so, be welcoming, help other parishes.
- Positive attitude, open mind, traffic can be an issue.
- We have faced obstacles before we can make it work.
- What happens to the organ?

- Be welcoming to all other parishes.
- Keep praying, praying, praying.
- Please consider the following combination of option
 - o Saint Mark, Saint Matthew and Carmelite monastery
 - o Saint Catherine and Our Lady of the Lake
 - o please make as few changes as possible, coordinating coordinated mass times and confessions.
- A reiteration of concern, over cultural geographical and population size, when merging three parishes.
- Disagreement on which three parishes would be compatible, some favored Matthew, Mark, and Luke, some favored Matthew, Mark, and Pius
- St. Catherine and St. Luke were both problematic in the eyes of some because of cultural differences.
- All these were concerns because of possible loss of parishioners and money.
- Other configuration: Saint Matthew, Saint Mark, and Saint Pius
 - o Reason Saint Mark in middle geographically, adds more diversity.
- Will there be a breakup of connections (Saint Catherines and Saint Bridgets)
- Catholic families, having less children - will run out of money to pay teachers. Not enough kids coming.
- Proximity is an issue. Saint Matthew, Saint Mark, St. Pius - Pius is interesting and friendly and smaller. More intimate, nice group. Helping with refreshments easy going, feeling not high-powered, singing, not great, but friendly/laid back and they have a school.
- We really feel we should be joined with Saint Pius in Mountlake Terrace and Saint Matthew or be a parish family of two due to geographic location.
- Form steering committees from each parish to coordinate functions, visit each church.
- Join together quickly, don't drag out the process.
- Communicate infrastructure conditions and proposed parish family.
- In the event of an eventual sale buildings, where will the proceeds go?
- St. Pius X because of geography
- Why not group us with Saint Luke? It is in the Shoreline area and has more people

- Current configuration will not work; Saint Matthew is a small tight group
- This configuration doesn't work if I have to drive to Saint Catherine; mass schedules impact my decision on where I go to mass.
- Losing our priest doesn't work for me
- Saint Pius seems like it would be a good fit for our configuration in place of Saint Catherine.
- Saint Pius would make sense to explore.
- Losing our priest doesn't work for me; parishioners need some continuity
- Keep the configurations by proximity; consider distance that people have to travel the most.
- Doing any configurations won't work because we will burn out our priests.
- Saint Matthew, Saint Pius, and us – central location of Saint Mark
- Everyone has to come here.
- Saint Luke? Some opposed, some think we're compatible
- Why aren't we grouped with Saint Pius?
- Carmelites always part of Saint Marks
- No one here knows anything about Saint Catherines - so far away
- Shoreline is very different than Seattle
- Wants to see huge map, parish and new families - apparently it's on website
- we need more outreach, for our neighbors, lots of apartments
- Demographics are changing.
- Takes longer to get through lights and traffic. Using MapQuest for distances not effective
- The eucharistic nature of the church must not be set aside as this procedure takes place. We need a pastor who is compatible with our ideals/culture. If we got a pastor that was not orthodox, people would leave; a lot of people come here from outside the parish boundary because they cannot find our liturgy and ideals at other churches. People migrate depending on whether they find a parish that they're comfortable with.
- A preferred parish configuration would be St. Pius X, St. Mark, St. Matthew.
- Are we being proposed in our current configuration to hold up the other two?

- Here's a sober and workable scenario for consolidating St. Mark/Matthew/Catherine parishes... First, St. Mark Church is retained as the flagship (more Mass attendees and more physical capacity). Second, St. Matthew becomes either a mission or folds (lesser capacity, school closed because less diverse facilities and portables, same school financial profile and enrollment as St. Mark, and developable property). Third, St. Catherine parish as a mission, but retains its community supported and financially viable school (at least until the neighborhood ages? I understand that half of the 200 students are not Catholic). Fourth, St. Mark school becomes financially viable and stabilizes IF even half of St. Matthew student head-count enrolls and IF they pay even half of the St. Mark tuition ("FTE"s); that is, 60 students x \$4,000 = \$240,000 (the St. Mark annual shortfall). In other words, in part, St. Mark begins to have a reasonable and sustainable teacher-student ratio (1:20 vs 1:12). Fifth, for perceived/real, and/reasonable fairness to the parishes (especially St. Matthew) and to future students: annual teacher contracts are conspicuously opened up for competition (involving all three parishes and all others in the Partnership diocese as a whole). If current St. Mark teachers for specific grades are measured against demonstrably more qualified candidates from the outside, so be it. The Classical dimension, however, would be retained as one criterion among others). Just some thoughts from a retired policy analyst.
- What doesn't work:
 - o The distance between St Catherine and St Mark
 - o Commute distance both ways.
 - o The difference of the more traditional liturgies and culture of St Mark, considering the (presumed) liturgies and culture of St Catherine.
- Alternate suggested configurations
 - o Our Lady of the Lake, St. Matthew, St Mark
 - o St Catherine, Assumption and St Bridget.

Please email this form to partners@seattlearch.org following your session.