



ST. PATRICK CHURCH
2702 Broadway East, Seattle, WA 98102

March 31, 2022

Most Rev. Paul Etienne
Archbishop of Seattle
710 9th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Archbishop Etienne,

We have received and reviewed as a community your letter dated March 1, 2022, informing us of the decision by the Archdiocese to resume the strategic planning process and requesting our response.

As the designated Advocates for our faith community, we are in dialogue with the entire parish as we explore options for our future. Specifically, we are exploring four key areas of consideration: identifying the concerns and needs of Deaf and Deaf-Blind members, studying options for alternative community, initiating a Canon Law appeal to your decision to merge us with another parish, and assessing what a merger with St. Joseph's might entail. Our community's active engagement in this discernment continues.

The high level of parish engagement in this discernment process is only one manifestation of the vibrancy and vitality of our Spirit-led community. We are a community that has demonstrated the essential role of discussion, listening, and discernment when making decisions of major importance, as we did when deciding to become a sanctuary parish and supported two families fleeing war in El Salvador, when helping the Archdiocese select a pastoral care model for our community when the Paulist Fathers abruptly left, and when we sold and tithed the proceeds of the sale of one of our properties for the benefit of several Catholic and non-Catholic organizations. You had the opportunity to experience another facet of the Spirit in our community when you came to St Patrick to preside over Confirmation in February 2020. It would be an injustice to conflate our faith community's size with a perceived lack of vibrancy and vitality. St. Patrick's is a mission driven community where many gifts and ministries are present and active.

As mentioned above, one of the options being explored is a Canon Law appeal of your decision to merge St. Patrick's community with another parish. Consultation with Canon Law advisors lead us to believe we have a strong case for a successful appeal. However, we believe it is in the interests

of both our parish and the Archdiocese to avoid an appeal. We believe we have practical suggestions for how the St. Patrick Church community can stay together as a community in our current facilities while helping the Archdiocese address current resource constraints as well as the general goals of parish restructuring per the 2020 Holy See Instruction on “The pastoral conversion of the Parish community in the service of the evangelizing mission of the Church.”

To that end, the Advocates are requesting an in-person meeting with you where we will make a presentation and discuss information about our parish and the Canon Law-related issues we have identified to date. We have not had the opportunity to meet with you in this planning process and believe an in-person meeting will add an important pastoral element to this experience. Additionally, we want you to have current, accurate, and comprehensive information about our community that you would need to present to the Presbyteral Council for their collective consideration, should you decide to issue a decree.

We look forward to hearing from you to schedule the in-person meeting in April, and will be pleased to host you in our well-maintained buildings. We hope the peace and joy of the holy season will guide us to a shared vision for the future acceptable to and beneficial for both the Archdiocese and St. Patrick Church.

Please contact St. Patrick’s Advocate John Hale at john@callofcompassion.org or 206-397-4861 to schedule the meeting.

In service and love of God,

St. Patrick’s Advocates