



May 4, 2022

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

Dear Archbishop Etienne,

Thank you for meeting with St. Patrick Parish Advocates and Pastoral Coordinator Deacon Dennis on April 25, 2022. We were about to send you a letter of gratitude for that meeting when we received your letter dated April 29, 2022, informing us of your intent to proceed with closing St. Patrick parish.

In your April 29 letter you state “we will stay the course and aim to complete this merger by July 1, 2022.” This deadline to complete the merger is inconsistent with your letter to our community dated March 1, 2022, in which you stated, “I ask that you continue exploring your parish options and share your preferences with me by July 1, 2022”.

We responded in a letter dated March 31, 2022, acknowledging your request and have been faithfully discerning our options and preparing to share our preferences by the July 1 deadline, which is radically different from completing the merger by that date. Our meeting with you was part of our discernment process, and we did not share preferences with you at that time.

In light of this significant discrepancy, we request that you honor your initial timeline for us to share our preferences by July 1, 2022, and extend the timeframe for completing the closure to September 1, 2022. A truncated timeline does not honor our discernment process and the faith community’s need to gain a sense of closure.

We also want to note that in your letter you state, “Based on the most recent information I received from your team, the majority of your parishioners are keen on merging into St. Joseph.” That characterization was not reflected in our presentation, is not accurate, and overstates the level of active interest in our merging with St Joseph. Further, in our meeting,



you expressed disappointment that the strategic planning process to merge St. Patrick's was not very consultative and mentioned our "digging in our heels" as if to say we were the problem. The community of St. Patrick's is similarly disappointed, as our experience was that we were never brought into a consultative planning process and a unilateral decision about us was made without us.

We continue to believe that closure of St. Patrick contradicts immediate and long-term archdiocesan goals, and your "Partners in the Gospel" initiative. Our extraordinarily high parishioner participation rate in liturgies, ministries, and other lay leadership positions makes the St. Patrick community well positioned to work with the archdiocese to carry out your publicly stated vision of shared responsibility for the life of the Church and the spread of the Gospel. Particularly after reading the letter regarding the process in Everett, we are extremely disappointed that we will not be given a similar opportunity to dialogue openly and creatively on how we can work together to further the long-term vitality of the local Church while allowing our vibrant faith community to remain open to serve our brothers and sisters on the margins and to be Christ in the world. Should you choose to move forward with your official decree mandating our closure, we respectfully request that you share our materials with the Presbyteral Council.

We cannot overstate our sadness and deep disappointment in your decision to close St Patrick parish. We look forward to hearing from you regarding our request to honor your initial timeline for our parish to discern and inform you of our preferences by July 1, 2022, and to allow us until September 1, 2022, to complete the closure process.

In loving service to God's people,

St. Patrick Advocates