



**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

UPDATE

January 2024

Partners in the Gospel Discernment Continues

Based on the input from the public consultation phase last fall, changes were recommended for 25 parish families, which impacted 78 individual parishes and missions. These parishes and missions were invited to hold a second round of listening with their parishioners to gather input on the updated version of their parish family. This feedback has been incorporated into the discernment process.

Discernment is different than simply “making a decision.” It involves prayer and quiet time to listen to the Holy Spirit to understand the direction this journey should take us. At this time, we ask everyone to continue praying for this effort.

Updated Q&A

Throughout the consultation process, new questions arose regarding Partners in the Gospel, the process, the purpose and more. Please see highlights below:

Q: How are we cultivating priestly vocations?

A: The Archdiocesan vocations team has expanded to include a full-time vocations director and three associate vocations directors. This has led to more opportunities to accompany young men discerning and to invite others to consider the priesthood. Specifically, our vocations team focuses on prayer, education and encouragement.

- **Prayer:** Following our Lord Jesus’ invitation to ask for laborers to serve in the harvest, parishes around the archdiocese regularly host Holy Hours dedicated to praying for vocations, as well as Serra Club chapters and other lay groups.
- **Education:** The vocations team is present at parishes, schools and diocesan events and retreats to teach people about vocations and how to discern them. This message is echoed through several communication efforts, including the annual seminarian poster, Vocations website and social media channels.
- **Encouragement:** Through events like discernment retreats and Quo Vadis Days, young men are encouraged to consider priesthood and to discern their vocation.

Upcoming Key Dates

Feb. 3-4, 2024 – Final parish family plan will be announced.

Spring 2024 – Pastors and parochial vicars announced.

July 2024 – Parish families, under the leadership of one pastor, will begin.

“I hope that we can come together with a new purpose and a soft heart towards one another.”

– Parish consultation

“We are not meant to be comfortable. This is an opportunity to grow in holiness. This could be what the Holy Spirit is calling for us.”

– Parish consultation

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