

Saint Anne Catholic Church:

Building our Parish's Vision & Mission Statements

Background:

Candid Conversations: For the past year, we have been gathering thoughts and opinions from our church parishioners. We kicked-off the dialogue with the Candid Conversation session last May. There were common concerns shared by many parishioners. Those discussions led parish staff to take action and offer four follow-up forums to further discuss the key concerns:

- Parish Leadership
- Parish Budget and Finances

Father Paul Magnano, the Archbishop's Vicar for Clergy, facilitated one forum and addressed issues concerning priest pastors, pastoral coordinators and other related topics. In addition, we discussed how St. Anne's pastoral coordinator-parochial vicar leadership configuration is organized here and how individuals can exercise leadership and work together as a community.

Another focus was to understand and gain insight into the current state of St. Anne Parish finances; how they came to be what they are today; and how that compares or contrasts with the experience of other parishes in the Archdiocese of Seattle. These discussions were facilitated by Finance Council members and Pat Sursely, Archbishop's Representative for Administration and Finance. Summaries of all forums were posted to our website.

Conversation Cafés: Next members from all councils and commissions hosted gatherings called Conversation Cafés. The intent of these gatherings was to have informal discussions regarding what we enjoyed about our community and what were areas that we need to address as a parish. These discussions were insightful and participants contributed many ideas of what they would like to see in our community. The findings were collected and analyzed by the Vision Committee.

These comments were used by the Vision Committee (made up of representatives of each of the parish councils and commissions) as the foundation for St. Anne's mission and vision statements. We uncovered a variety of common themes voiced from many people. We learned that our parish membership is:

- Committed to building a caring and welcoming community;
- Appreciative of faith formation opportunities and liturgies;
- Pleased with the school and its focus on teaching Catholic values while providing educational excellence;
- Dedicated to serving people in need.

Our mission and vision for the parish are built on these fundamental ideals. Our goal is to clearly define our purpose for the church and illustrate how our parish is called to continue the mission of Jesus Christ.

Writing a Church's mission & vision:

Writing a mission and vision for a church is a bit different than developing statements for a company or non-profit. A mission statement describes a parish's understanding of its identity and its purpose. What are we called to do? Why does a parish exist? A vision statement imaginatively describes what the parish will look like when its mission is fully realized. It helps the members to "see" what they want their community to become—a prophetic image of what they want to create in years ahead, describing the hoped-for results of their efforts.

One major point the committee wanted to capitalize on was how the mission of the Church is not merely the mission of the pope, or the bishops, or the priests; it is the mission of all—the clergy and the laity. Since we live in the midst of the world, as lay members of the Church it is our responsibility to invite people into relationship with Christ and to bring justice to the world through our everyday actions. After reading the comments made by parishioners, we wanted to draft a vision statement that represents a parish that actively engages with its people and with humanity—a place where Church intersects and interacts with the world.

Please see the Draft Mission & Vision Statements on the other side of this page.

The DRAFT Mission & Vision Statements

Mission:

We, the members of St. Anne Catholic Parish, are committed to building a caring community and living out the Gospel as listeners, learners and leaders. We embrace Christ's mission to transform the world and strive to be a light on Queen Anne Hill, now and for future generations.

Vision:

St. Anne Parish is a welcoming community called to continue the mission of Jesus Christ. Parishioners of all ages and diverse backgrounds accept and appreciate our important calling—to share God's love in the world through our actions within family life, work, and society; our efforts help change and build a more vibrant community.

We actively pray together, in full assembly, as we recognize God's presence among us. We celebrate and deepen our relationship with God through engaging liturgies and faith formation opportunities. These serve as the foundation for reaching out in service to others.

This community accepts the responsibility for passing on this gift of faith to our children, teenagers and young adults. As an important ministry of the parish, St. Anne School continues its commitment to educating the whole child—strengthening Catholic values while providing educational excellence. Our young people are prepared to live as maturing members of society.

St. Anne Parish compassionately works to do justice and promote peace. We actively engage our neighbors, collaborate with other faith communities and reach out to other organizations to address local and global needs. Motivated by our love of God and neighbor, we aspire to make a difference in our society, and to make the world a better place.

Next Steps:

- What do you think? We'd like to hear your reactions, thoughts and ideas. Email your comments on our mission and vision to info@stanneseattle.org. Please let us hear from you by April 30th.
- You are also welcome to attend the Ministry Fair after Mass on April 24th & 25th and discuss with one of our committee members your thoughts of the mission and vision statements.
- We will use the final mission and vision statement as the foundation to develop our **5 year plan**. If you are interested in being a part of this process please contact Ron Ryan.