



Parish Report Submission

Parish/School/Institution/Group: St Paul the Apostle Parish, Juneau, Alaska
(please compile all responses under the ten themes. Use additional pages as needed)

1. Companions on the Journey:

- How do we make people feel welcome? All lives matter!

2. Listening:

- The Church needs to do more to return fallen away Catholics.
- The Church needs to do more for divorced Catholics.
- The question “who is my neighbor” needs to be at the center of all that we do as a parish.
- The parish should continue with live streaming and other outreach options for shut ins.

3. Speaking out:

- There needs to be more adult catechesis that explains the teachings and traditions of the Church and is more dialogical instead of instructive.
- The voice of the archbishop as shepherd needs to be more prominent.
- The archbishop needs to be shepherd to his priests and his people.

4. Celebration:

- We need to do more to tap into the powerhouse of prayer.
- We need the presence of a religious community in Juneau.
- Our faith community needs to encourage people to come back to church, especially post Covid-19.
- We need to do more to nurture the spiritual life of those who are coming to church. *Focus*, *Ananias* and *Strength Builders* programs need to be provided by diocese.
- It's time to bring back altar servers and other ministries.
- We need homilies on sin and consequences not just God is love and merciful.
- Holy Days need to be celebrated instead of being moved to the closest Sunday.
- Everyone should be welcomed to the Eucharist. It is medicine for the sick, not a reward for the virtuous.
- The Archdiocese needs to do more to foster vocations.
- We need more opportunities for devotions, like First Friday, First Saturday, rosary, adoration, and novenas - Marian devotions.

- We need to bring back symbols during our liturgical seasons-show and share. We have deep rich catholic culture and traditions.
- We need a revival of understanding and remembering the Gospel Stories and promises.

5. Sharing Responsibility for our Common Mission:

- We need to do a much better job ministering to bush and mission communities. Someone needs to be providing resources for catechesis and sacraments and liturgical life.
- We need to do a better job ministering to our young people. Better catechesis of our youth so that they understand their faith, how it differs from other faith expressions, and why the Church takes the stands it does on tough social issues.
- The Church needs to engage youth more, and have them participate more in the life of the Church and its ministries. Young people should be encouraged to act as altar servers, ushers, lectors, help with the flowers or funeral dinners.
- A parish Council is needed for Spiritual growth of our parish
- Parishes are under resourced for catechesis. Catechists need better formation!
- The Archdiocese needs to take a stronger leadership role in promoting marriage and family life.
- The Archdiocese needs to do more to support young adults and young families.
- Investing in marriages, families, and children produces amazing spiritual fruit.
- We need to keep our mission statement visible and out front.

6. Dialogue in Church and Society:

- What does the church really teach on gay community-not just local level-we are all made in the image of Christ? How can you welcome when you disagree with their lifestyle?
- We need to have clear catechesis on hard topics.

7. Ecumenism:

- St. Paul's needs to do more to reach out to and interact with our neighbors. Don't need to be qualified - just willing to share our gifts.
- Encourage more participation in prolife activities in the community, like volunteering at Juneau Pregnancy Resource Center; sharing the Church's teachings on Theology of the Body; promoting Natural Family Planning class, etc.
- We need resources at our college campuses.
- We need to do more to be a welcoming and inviting church.

8. Governance, Authority and Participation:

- Laity needs to step up to leadership roles.
- The Church needs to expand the rolls of women.
- There needs to be ordination of women as deacons and priests.
- How would temporary vocations work maybe 5-15 years' time.
- Our archdiocese needs to provide better leadership and resources.

- People don't feel connected to the Archdiocese or to our Archbishop.
- Priests should be allowed to marry.
- There is elitism in the church. Clergy are servants. We need humility in leadership.
- We need to be included in the process and not have decisions come down from Anchorage.
- Transparency and communication are key.

9. Discerning and Deciding:

- Transparency is needed. People need to be aware of the projects and needs of our parish, and be involved in decision making - like replacing the windows in St. Peter's Hall.
- People in SE feel left behind in the diocesan unification process.
- We needed more time to mourn the loss of our diocese and our close community. We had no choice or discussion on losing our diocese!

10. Forming Ourselves in Synodality:

- We need ministries like *Focus* and *Courageous* in our diocese. We need programs and retreats for forming intentional disciples.
- We need different retreats to support different needs. Agape meals provide community and nurturing.
- We need more ministries and small faith communities within the Church that encourage people to pray and study scriptures.
- We need to be informed sooner of Bishop's hour of prayer so we can participate!
- The Church needs to provide resources to help individuals discern the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Spiritual direction needs to be more widely available.
- We need to be authentic in our mission and our faith.
- We need to provide for people in the stage of life that they are in youth, young families, empty nest, seniors, widowed.
- We need to inventory our collected gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- We need vocations, formation and community.