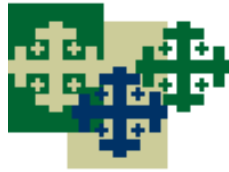


# With Hearts Burning Within Us

*“ Were not our hearts burning within us  
while He spoke to us as we walked along the way?”  
Luke 24:32*



## Building a Faith Community for a New Century

St. Madeleine Sophie Catholic Church

A Statement of Vision and Goals  
2001-2005

***“From age to age You gather a people to Yourself so that from east to west  
a perfect offering may be made to the glory of Your name”  
Eucharistic Prayer III***

**We are the faith community of St. Madeleine Sophie Catholic Church, God’s Holy People committed to following Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the World.**

**We learn our faith. We live our faith. We share our faith.**

Participating in the faith of the Apostles through the ministry of our Archbishop and Pastor we provide a community of the Roman Catholic faith on the eastside of Lake Washington in eastern King County in the state of Washington.

**We began our walking along the way with Jesus** in 1968 with the formation of a new parish by Archbishop Thomas A. Connolly under the title and associated in spirit with St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, foundress of the Society of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. From its beginnings our parish life has been centered in the Eucharist so that our Catholic identity, faith and the stewardship of Spirit-given talents, gifts and resources may give glory to God’s name. With tremendous enthusiasm, generosity and cooperation, the initial parishioners and their pastor, Fr. Jarlath Heneghan shared together a grand vision for ministry to which they gave significant expression on a magnificent campus by bringing to reality in 1971 the present church, “rectory”/offices, social hall and classrooms.

**We developed** our faith community year by year. We grew in contemporary liturgical expression through implementing the renewal called for by the Second Vatican Council. We have been especially blessed with inspiring and talented clergy and lay ministers, wonderfully gifted musical and liturgical talent and an outpouring of dedicated volunteers. We have developed outstanding programs for the faith formation of adults, youth and children. We made it a priority to provide sensitive pastoral care to our parishioners and generous social outreach to those in need in our community and around the world. And all this came about within an intentional spirit of welcoming, by inviting and accepting all people and providing opportunities for them to recognize and utilize their gifts and talents to build up the reign of God.

**We now** are at a unique turning point. Our people have adopted a strong sense of discipleship. Our commitment to stewardship has matured. Our parish is debt free. Our ministries and programs are flourishing. We are culturally diverse, as God has literally brought us together “from east to west.”

We are limited in our present facilities for ministry in that they are overused and in need of expansion. But we have the will to take bold new steps. We can strengthen our present ministries, develop new ministries and expand our facilities, entering into an exciting new era of spirituality and service.

September 9, 2001

Dear friends:

When I became pastor of St. Madeleine Sophie Parish in July of 2000, I quickly became aware of the wonderful traditions, blessings, gifts, and talents which the Lord has given to our faith community since its founding in 1968. The dozens of home gatherings last fall and winter were also a very valuable way to come to know the parish. I also came to believe that the parish was ready both to affirm its successes in ministry and to allow the Lord to challenge it toward some new pastoral initiatives.

This past year with the collaboration of the pastoral council, an extensive listening survey was initiated. The survey, responded to by over 950 persons, gave all parish households the opportunity to rate the priority of and their degree of satisfaction with present ministries and to express their opinions about future directions. There was a great deal of insightful conversation in leadership gatherings, organizational meetings, home visits, staff discussions and Sunday coffee hours. All of this gave me and the pastoral council a detailed sense of what people were saying about our future as a faith community.

In July of this year, the pastoral council and I met in retreat to bring together the many feelings and themes that had been heard. Council members also tapped into the vision of the wider church by studying documents written by our Archbishop and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on evangelization, faith formation, unity in diversity, accessibility, and cultural inclusion<sup>1</sup>. During the retreat the Council and I, developed a draft statement of goals.

The draft was further refined in discussions with staff and an open-to-all “sounding board” session reflective of the experiences of our parishioners. **The goals are now proclaimed as the foundation of a pastoral plan for our faith community.** These goals will guide the evaluation and strengthening of current ministries, the formation and implementation of new initiatives and of the expansion and renovation of our buildings.

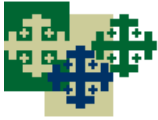
At the retreat, the council also recognized that we have come to a necessary turning point on the question of whether or not the ministry of a parish Catholic school should become a component in our provision of comprehensive faith formation for our parish’s children. This ministry issue had not been openly discussed in the past due to a number of factors. However, with the majority of parish families surveyed expressing a strong sense of priority for a parish school, it was concluded that we must advance the conversation and analyze, discuss, define and discern the best option for incorporating this important desire into the parish’s future. Taking these next steps in a feasibility study is an essential part of our plan.

After the Pastoral Council and I identified ministries for the future, we reviewed the work of a study committee formed by Fr. George Rink and continued by Fr. John Renggli during their pastorates. Father Renggli had requested from the committee a land stewardship plan<sup>2</sup>. The plan gathered the results of research as to how various potential buildings might be placed on our property in light of land use and zoning guidelines, estimated costs, neighborhood residents’ issues and other concerns. We saw that much of the committee’s findings are compatible with the dreams, expressed in the “listening” survey and in the many other opportunities for conversation these past months of a very significant majority of our parishioners. We found these dreams also consistent with the vision of our local Church in western Washington and that of the universal Church. Because of this pre-planning, we are in an ideal position to move more rapidly into the building and construction process.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. James D. Picton  
Pastor

**Our hope**, upon proclaiming these goals and plans, is that they will lead to action. The goals, though broad, speak of the way we will develop our ministries as the parish moves into a new era. They will inform the vision of the commissions, teams, groups, staff, and volunteers who are directly engaged in the ministries and services of the parish, and they will guide the expansion of our campus.



## **We Learn Our Faith**

We will continue to give high priority to faith formation, further strengthening our programs for all children, youth and adults. We will further enhance opportunities for learning through challenging homilies, sacramental preparation, small group sharing, renewal opportunities, scripture studies, retreats, advocacy for social justice, mission trips and service projects.

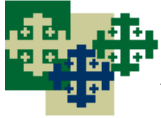
Our intent is to deepen an awareness in the adults of our parish of the need to further their own faith formation. We will help them to feel comfortable and empowered for sharing their faith in their homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and exercising their baptismal call to build up the Body of Christ. Parents will be especially challenged to become role models of gospel values for their children.

We will provide more convenient, enhanced and flexible opportunities for faith formation. This will necessitate expansion of the space available for classes and gatherings and may require us to explore new and creative staffing arrangements.

Recognizing how an effective youth ministry is vital to passing on the faith to the next generation, we will enrich the faith formation, recreational and outreach components of our program. This will require us to add a flexible multipurpose space, possibly a gym to our campus. The ability to have such a flexible space will also enhance other ministries and programs.

A full-scale study will be initiated to engage the parish community in shaping a parish school ministry. We have heard significant support for a parish school ministry and affirm support to the extent that it is feasible. The study needs to address the unconscious and unspoken assumptions about a school. It must investigate capital needs, possible approaches and interim steps. Feasibility must take into account the impact on current ministries, demographic projections, plans of neighboring parish schools, support of parishioners with children in other schools, grades to be included and the number of children and families which can be served. The relationship between our present quality, comprehensive faith formation program as a basic offering to all parish families and their children, and the added enhancement of a school ministry must be carefully studied.

A school ministry must have an outreach component; perhaps children with special needs could be served. Parish school facilities would need to be available for other parish programs and activities, and the study must explore how such facilities would be integrated with other parish uses. The completion of the study will enable the parish to incorporate its results into our pastoral plan by May of 2002.



## **We Live Our Faith and We Share Our Faith**

Because outreach and social justice are an integral part of the mission of the Church, all ministries and buildings shall incorporate some component of outreach, new initiatives of advocacy in the surrounding community to further develop the values of the Gospel will be initiated.

We will strive to be more welcoming and will improve the ways in which we are open to people of all cultures, economic levels, special needs, and diverse styles of expressing authentic Catholicism.

It is important to give high priority to life-giving liturgies, celebrations of the sacraments, liturgical music, care for the sick and homebound and outreach to the poor

Our desire is for the parish family to be further enriched by greater diversity in its membership, reflecting the current composition of the surrounding community. We will do all that we can to reach out and effectively invite all our neighbors to be part of our parish. We will work at overcoming barriers to full participation. We will provide orientation to and opportunities for involvement in parish life to newcomers.

More opportunities for Mass will be provided, including possible ways to address the diversity of preferences in worship styles and cultural traditions.

We will address and resolve the issues of access in our facilities for people with physical challenges and disabilities. The church sanctuary, gathering spaces, meeting rooms and offices all will be made fully accessible.

Expanding our gathering spaces, meeting rooms, office spaces and parking areas will provide for our growing community. All buildings used for ministry shall be planned with long-range, multi-purpose capability.

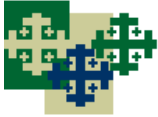
Following the example of our Pope and Archbishop we will deepen our awareness of the truth that ecumenism and interfaith relations are an essential aspect of our being Catholic, further our collaboration with neighboring churches, and initiate inter-religious relationships.

We will encourage vocations from within our faith community, especially to the ordained priesthood. In collaboration with our deanery and the Archdiocese, we will invite the placement of newly ordained priests, seminarians, religious and ministry interns into our parish ministries.

We hope to provide a residence for our priests according to Archdiocesan norms, preferably on-campus or in close proximity.

We want to continue to make improvements in our worship space to offer an appropriate setting for the celebration of the Church's sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and a greater sense of spirituality, community, and welcoming.

**To implement these goals** we have established a timeline and organizational structure. All existing commissions, staff and groups will study and discuss the goals for the purpose of discerning their respective roles in bringing them to reality. The results of these discussions will be presented to the Parish as they are developed and will be celebrated as a Pastoral Plan at the Feast of St. Madeleine Sophie in May 2002.



## Organizational Structure

**Three new committees** will be formed this fall for particular planning and implementation roles.

These committees shall serve under the direction of the pastor and shall follow Archdiocesan norms for parish development projects. The committees may employ the services of professional consultants as needed and shall provide periodic reviews with the pastoral council, staff and other parish groups. The work of these committees will be empowered through their collaborating with existing parish organizations and keeping all parishioners informed of the evolving plans through effective and multiple forms of communication.

A **Fund Development Committee** will have delegation for the fostering of a new era of stewardship and giving including capital construction projects. It will help the parish to fully understand its financial needs and how each household can contribute a fair share toward those needs. The committee also will be involved in planning realistic funding programs and working with parishioners and outside sources to ensure that projects are adequately funded. A stewardship and project funding campaign will be conducted during the winter of 2001.

A **School Study Committee** will be charged with the responsibility of answering the questions of school definition and feasibility as outlined in these goals and advising on the many policy questions, which would arise with a parish school. The study will be completed and a course of action will be recommended to the parish by the spring of 2002.

A **Building Committee** will be responsible for building design and construction. This work will include a planning phase for detailed consultation with Facilities User Groups of staff and representatives of parish organizations on the various needs to be met in the design of the buildings. The committee also will have the responsibility for considering the cost estimates, recommending the architect and contractor and overseeing the building process.

**The responsibility for continuous communication** between parishioners, parish groups, councils and staff will be coordinated by the pastor and other staff as appropriate. The pastor also will appoint a Parishioner Delegate to facilitate the discussions and implementation of these goals by parish commissions and groups.



## Implementation Timeline

**Building phases are envisioned** utilizing much of the research available in the land stewardship plan. While design details can only be finalized through consultation with parish commissions, staff and groups, a general plan and timeline can be visualized. Since it is our goal that all buildings be fully accessible, all building phases must reflect this goal and priority must be given to honoring this value.

Further updating of the **Church Interior** is needed to provide a greater sense of spirituality, community, and welcoming, such as unmet accessibility requirements, possible upgrades in the major heating, cooling and electrical systems or un-addressed liturgical needs for such items as an improved sacristy or a font more suited to the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism. While it has been our practice to make frequent improvements in our worship space, the construction of an adjacent Parish Community Center may carry with it requirements for some modification of the Church space. This could provide an opportune time to enhance our worship space.

**Expansion of Parking** probably can be accomplished on a more rapid time frame than building construction. Preliminary studies show that at least 100 parking spaces can be developed in the upper portion of the open area that the parish owns to the South of the church. With adequate funding, and permits the parking project may be completed by the fall of 2002.

A **Parish Community Center** can be accommodated, connecting to the South of the main entrance of the Church. This two-level addition may include roomy and inviting gathering spaces, additional classroom/meeting rooms, handicap-accessible restrooms, an elevator serving the Center as well as present three story church building, indoor stairway, parish offices, library, and possibly a new nursery. With consensus on design details and adequate funding, this addition may be completed by the fall of 2003.

An on campus **Priest's Residence** will be possible with the completion of the Parish Community Center, and the availability of the present house again for residential use.

A **Parish Educational Center** can be imagined on the lower part of our vacant property. Prior feasibility studies have shown that this land could accommodate a multipurpose educational facility, possibly built in stages that could include, classrooms, labs, offices and a gymnasium with an adjacent parking and play area. It would need to be carefully designed for the compact, sloping site. The timeline for this building would be dependent upon the results of the school study and identifying the sources of the necessary additional funding.

While it is the policy of the parish that all programs and buildings should include an outreach component, interest continues to be expressed in having a special place on site for a vital community service. As our Outreach Ministry evolves and develops, it may outgrow our existing space, presenting the need for an **Outreach Facility**.



**St. Madeleine Sophie Parish  
Pastoral Council Members**

Very Rev. James D. Picton (Pastor)  
Mike Ensminger (Chair)

Veronica Asui  
Sandra Castell  
Joan Dixon  
Ruth Edlund  
Angel Herber  
Ed Petkus  
Ray Toberman  
Bonnie Sanchez

Rev. Emmanuel Iweh (Parochial Vicar)

---

**1. Documents studied by the parish pastoral council included:**

*Go and Make Disciples, A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*, United States Catholic Conference, 1993.

*Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*, United States Catholic Conference, 1999.

*Many Faces in God's House, A Catholic Vision for the Third Millennium*, United States Catholic Conference, 1999.

*Welcoming the Stranger Among Us, Unity in Diversity*, United States Catholic Conference, 2000.

*Open Wide the Doors to Christ*, Archbishop Alex J. Brunett, Seattle, WA, 1998.

*Final and Report and Recommendations, The Religious Education/Formation Study for the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle*, Planning and Research Department, Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle, 1997.

**2. Land Stewardship Plan**, prepared by the St. Madeleine Sophie Building Discernment Committee and adopted by the Pastoral Council in 1999. (Copies available in the parish office)