



PARTNERS **IN THE GOSPEL**

Current Reality Presentation
June 2023

Agenda

- Research overview
- Snapshot of the Archdiocese of Seattle
- Trends
- Next steps



A photograph of a bishop in red vestments and a mitre shaking hands with a man in a suit. The image is overlaid with a green filter. The text "Research overview" is centered in white.

Research overview

Research process

- Annual report data
- Mass counts
- Attendance data
- Collections revenue
- Catholic Schools data
- Census data

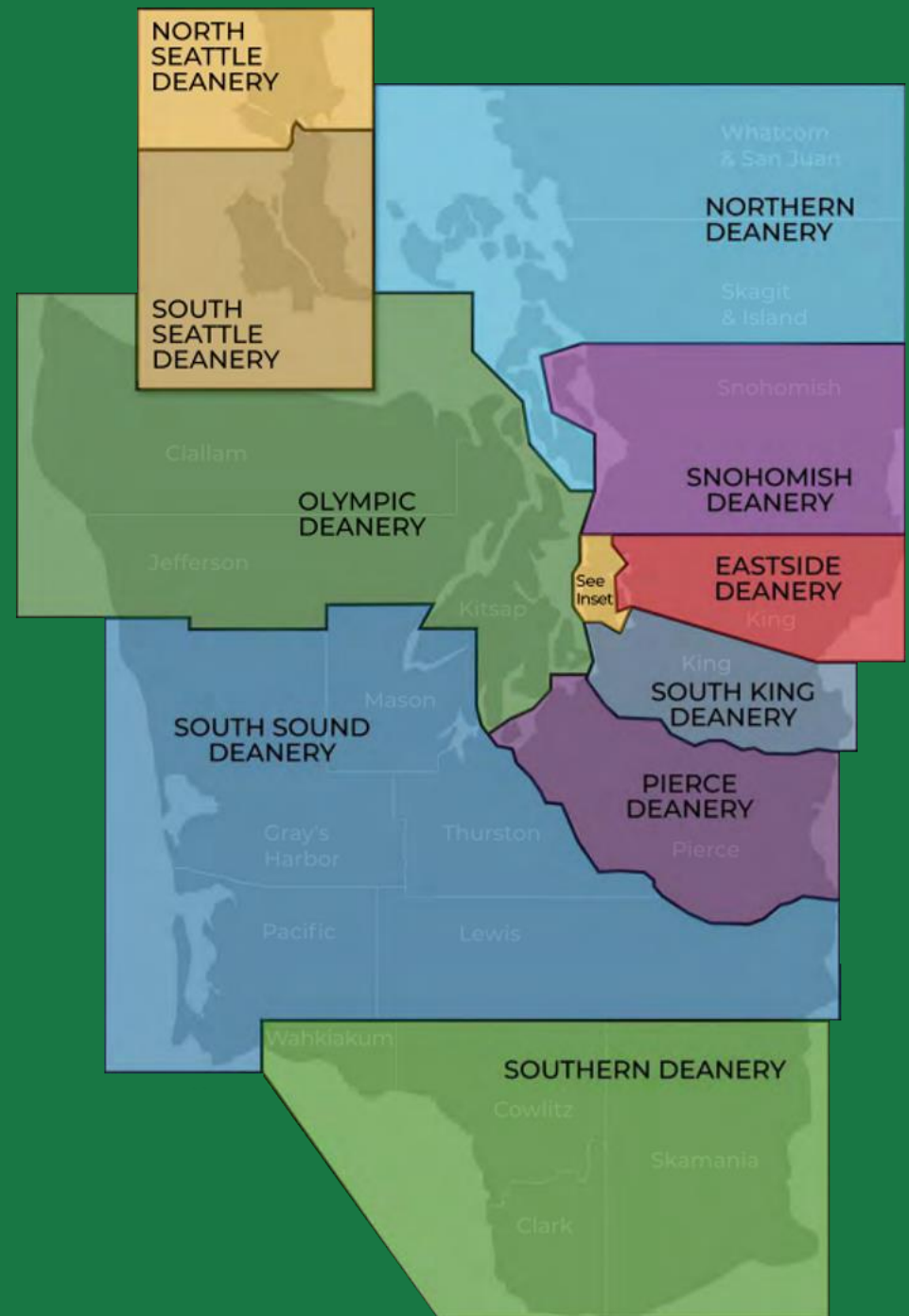


A photograph of a man in traditional Chinese attire, including a blue cap and a blue jacket with gold circular patterns. He is holding a pink flower. In the background, there are other people, including a woman and a young boy, also holding flowers. The entire image has a green overlay.

Today's snapshot

Archdiocese today

- **136** parishes
- **26** missions
- **12** stations
- **10** deaneries
- **2** camps
- **1** retreat center
- **4** Associated Catholic Cemeteries



By the numbers

July 2021 - June 2022



2,250

Infant baptisms



3,313

First communions



3,704

Confirmations



926

Funerals



361

Total marriages

226 Catholic

135 Interfaith

Priests

As of May 1, 2023

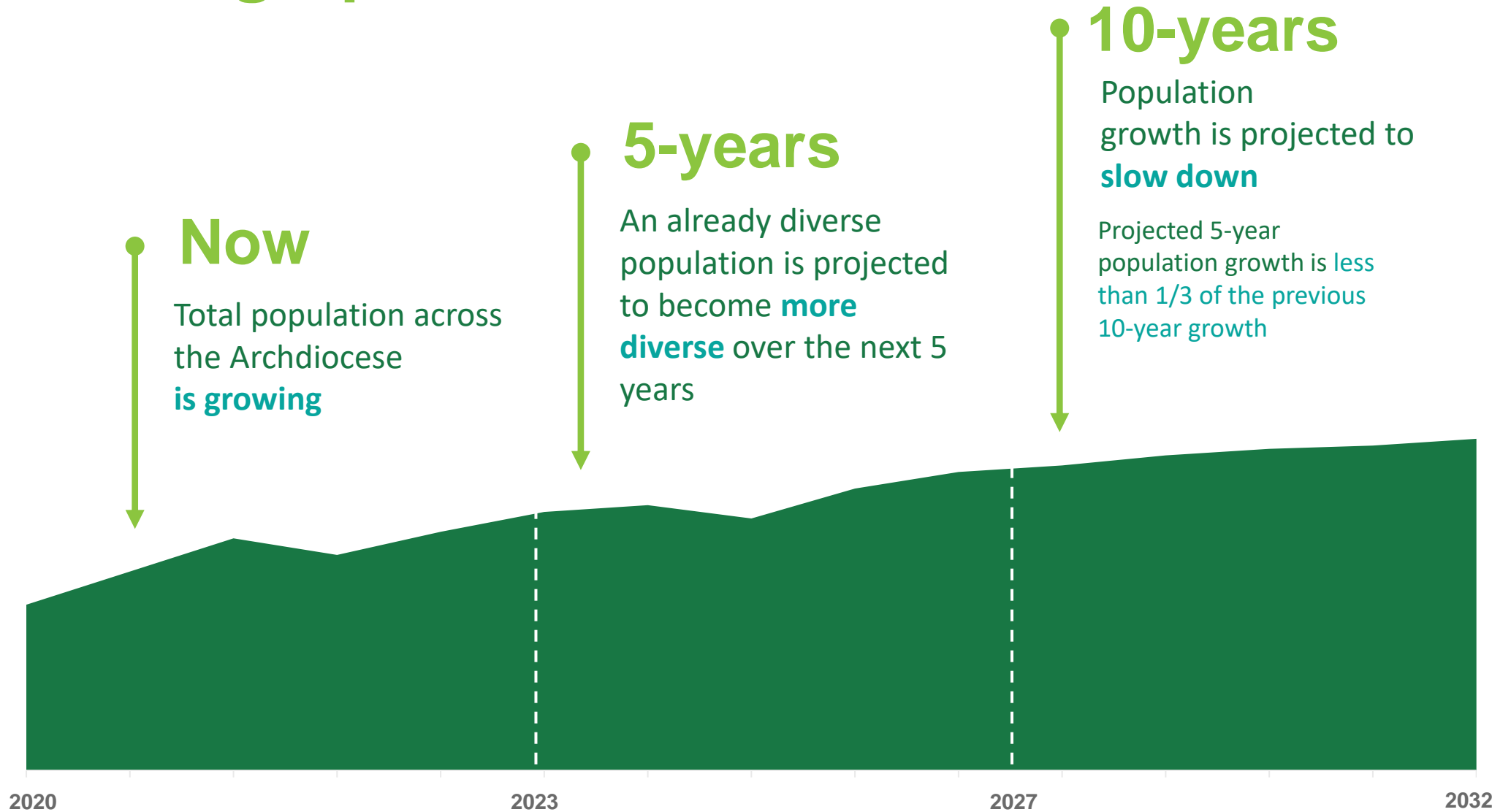
- **161** Total archdiocesan priests
 - 80** Pastors **62** Senior status
- **92** Diocesan priests working in a parish
- **26** Extern priests (from other dioceses)
- **30** Religious order priests
- **13** Seminarians



A photograph of a priest in profile, wearing a dark vestment with gold trim, holding a host (Eucharist) in his hands. He is standing at an altar covered with a white cloth. On the altar, there is a chalice, a book, a candle in a holder, and a cross. The background shows a church interior with a window. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The word "Trends" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Trends

Demographics



Current demographics

Between 2010 & 2022 across the Archdiocese

+18.8%

Total population growth

Grew from 5,031,644 to 5,977,553

Fastest-growing age cohort:



65 and older

Grew 67% from 589,489 to 1,004,032

Largest generational cohort:



Millennials

1,563,612 or 25% of the total population

Demographics: in 5 years

+2.7%

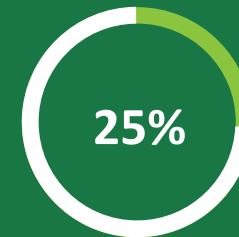
Population growth

Will grow to 6,140,000



65 and older

population will grow 16% to 1,161,000



Millennials

will still make up 25% of the total population
at 1,563,000

Current demographics

Between 2010 & 2022 across the Archdiocese

+18.8%

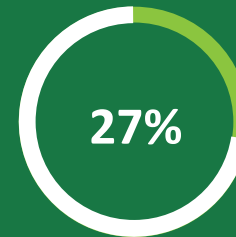
Total population growth

Grew from 5,031,644 to 5,977,553



White population

Grew **2%** from 3,631,643 to 3,719,186



Persons of color

Grew **57.8%** from 960,813 to 1,587,258



Hispanic population

Grew **52.8%** from 439,189 to 671,109

Demographics: in 5 years

+2.7%

Population growth

Will grow to 6,140,000



White population

will grow .1% to 3,722,000



Persons of color

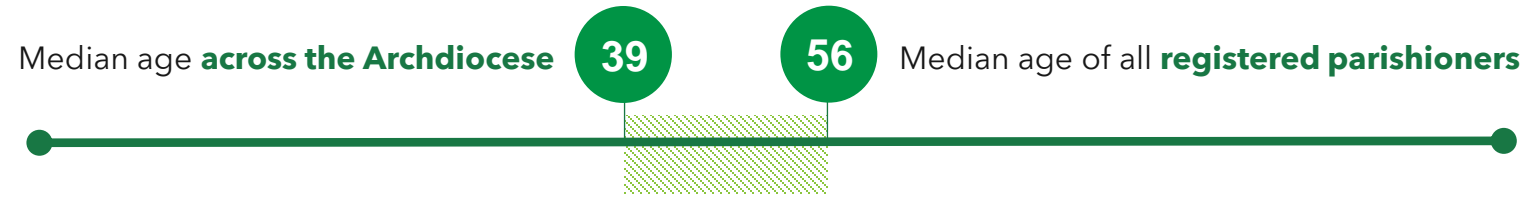
population will grow 8% to 1,715,000



Hispanic population

will grow 4% to 702,900

Catholic Demographics



Median age of registered parishioners is **17 years older** than the median age of the general population

Registered households are declining while general population increases

-7%

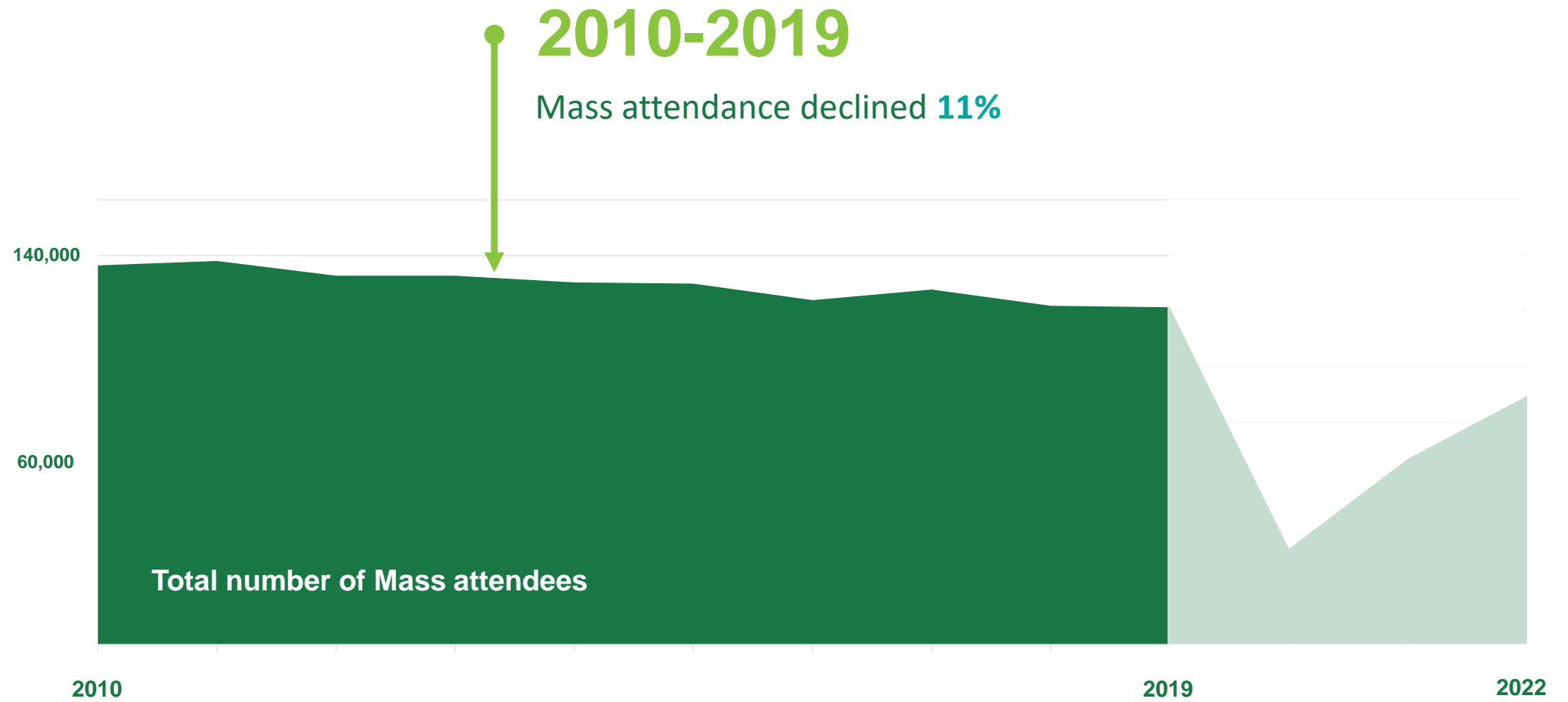
decline of registered Catholic households since 2017

63%

of registered Catholic households reside within Seattle-Tacoma urban area

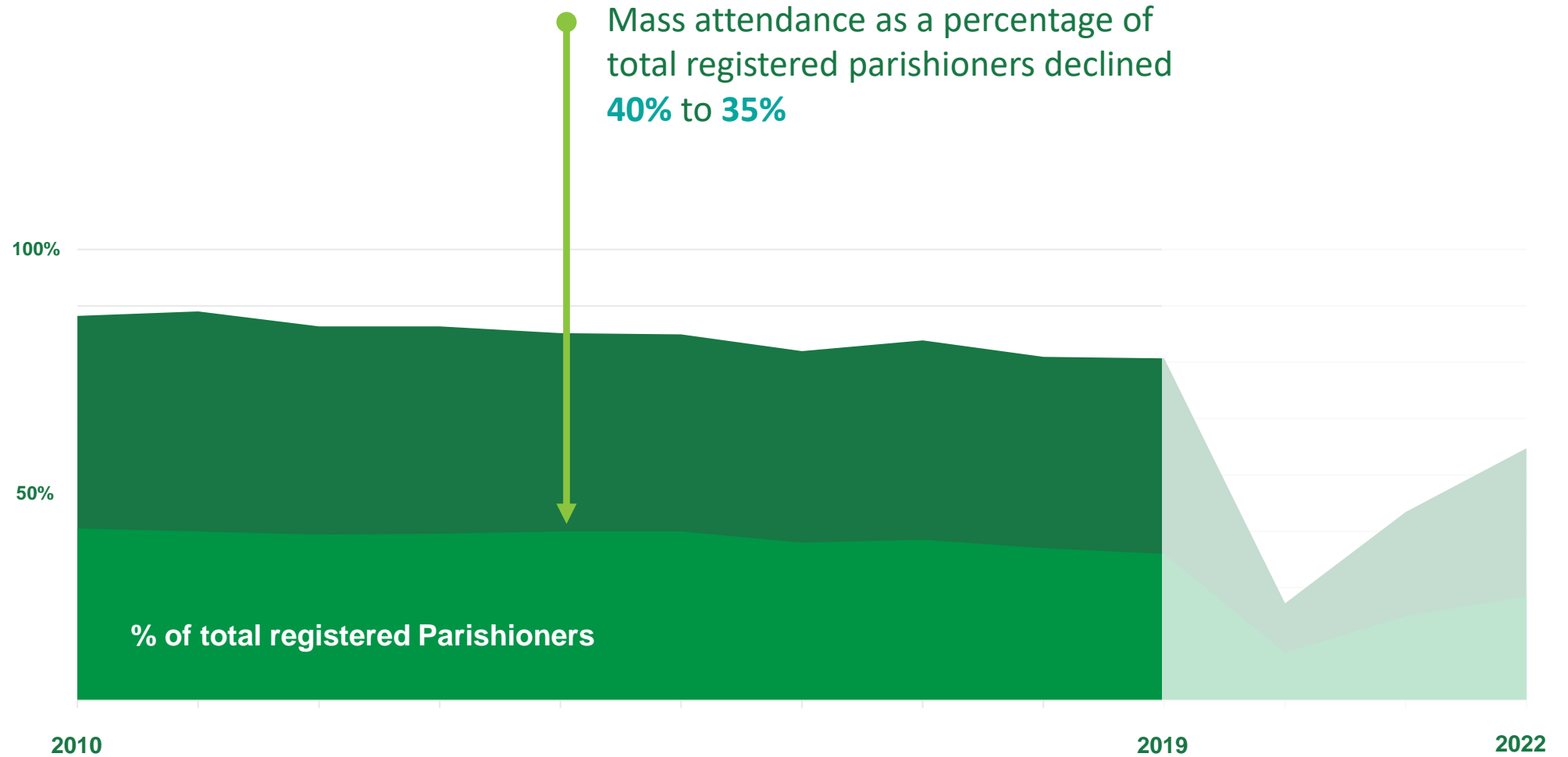
Mass Attendance

Between pre-pandemic years 2010 - 2019



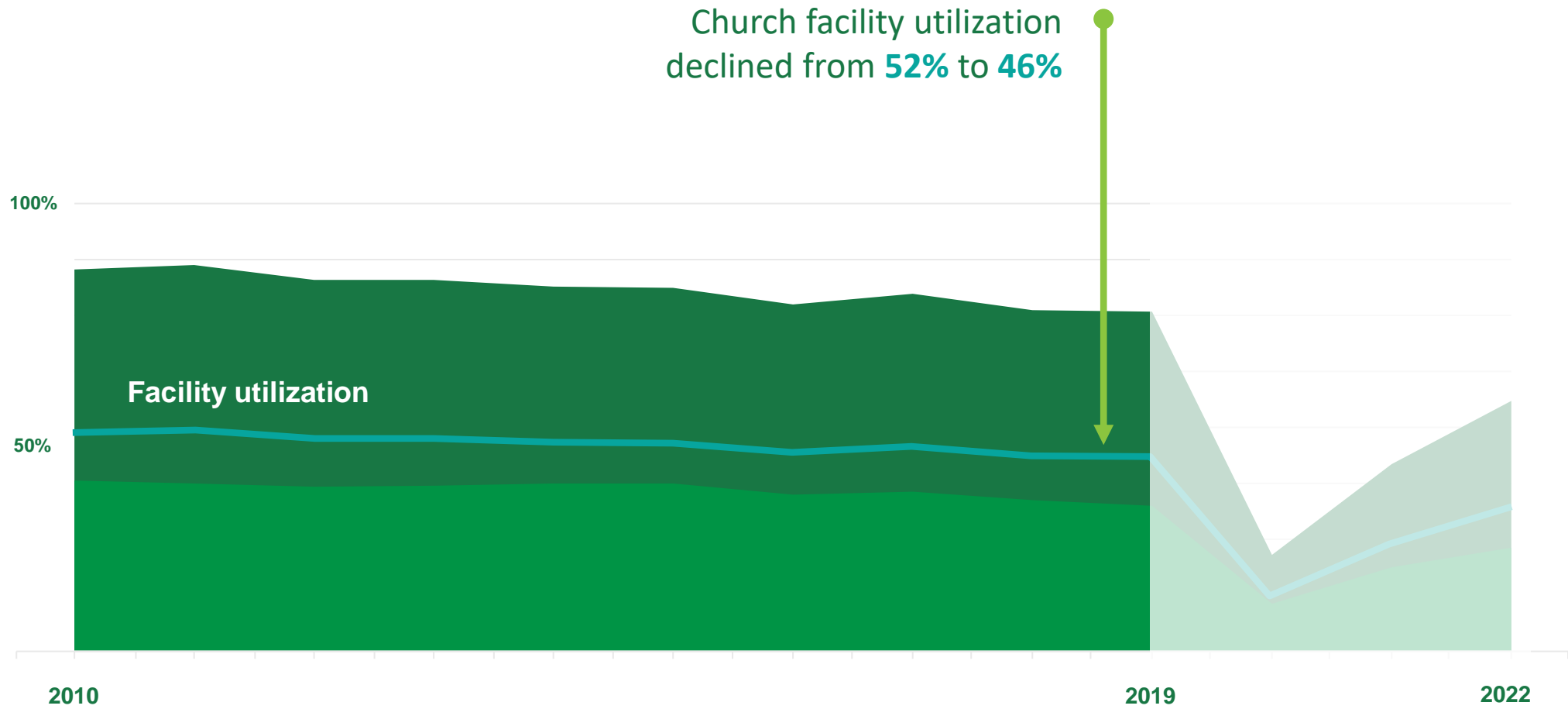
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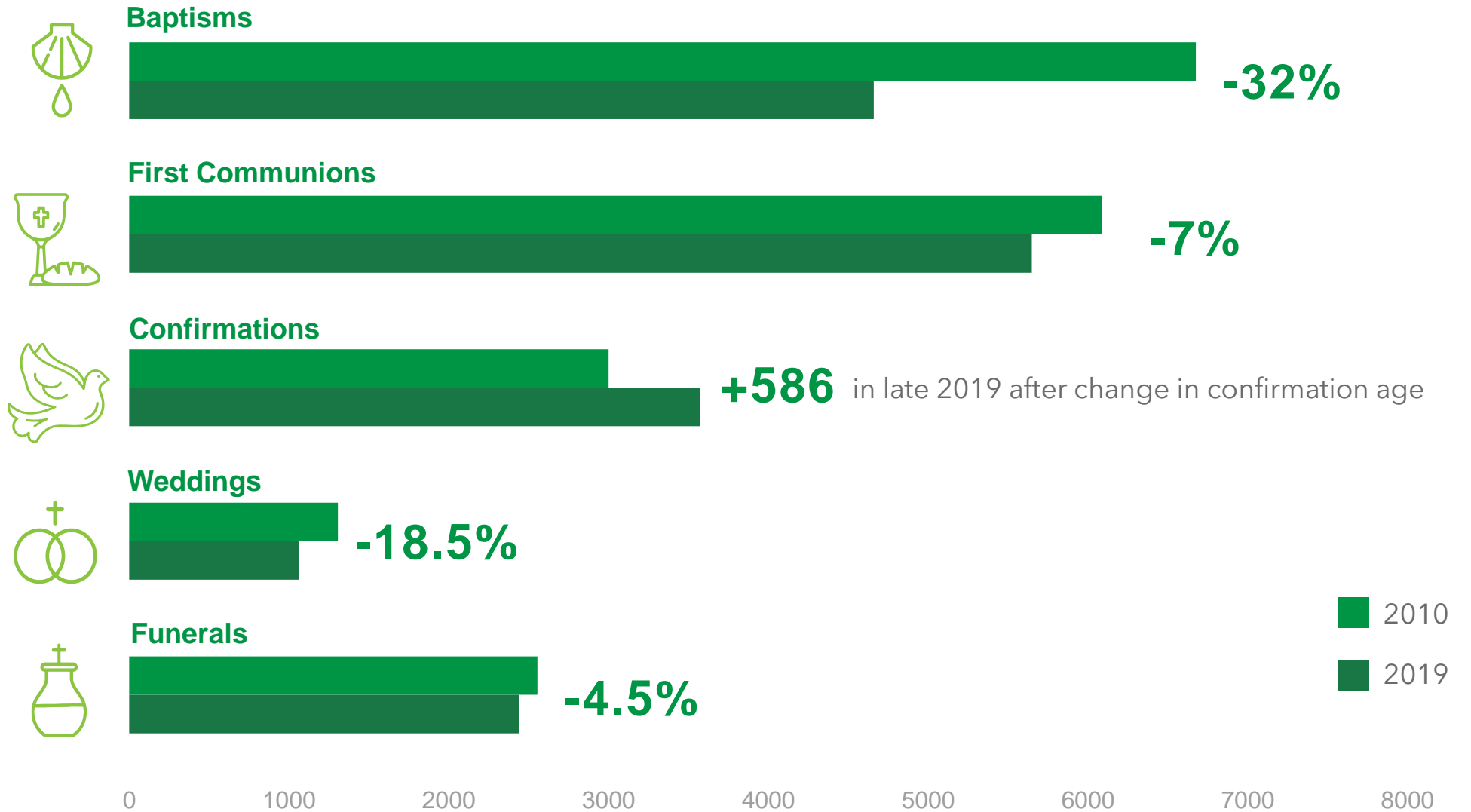


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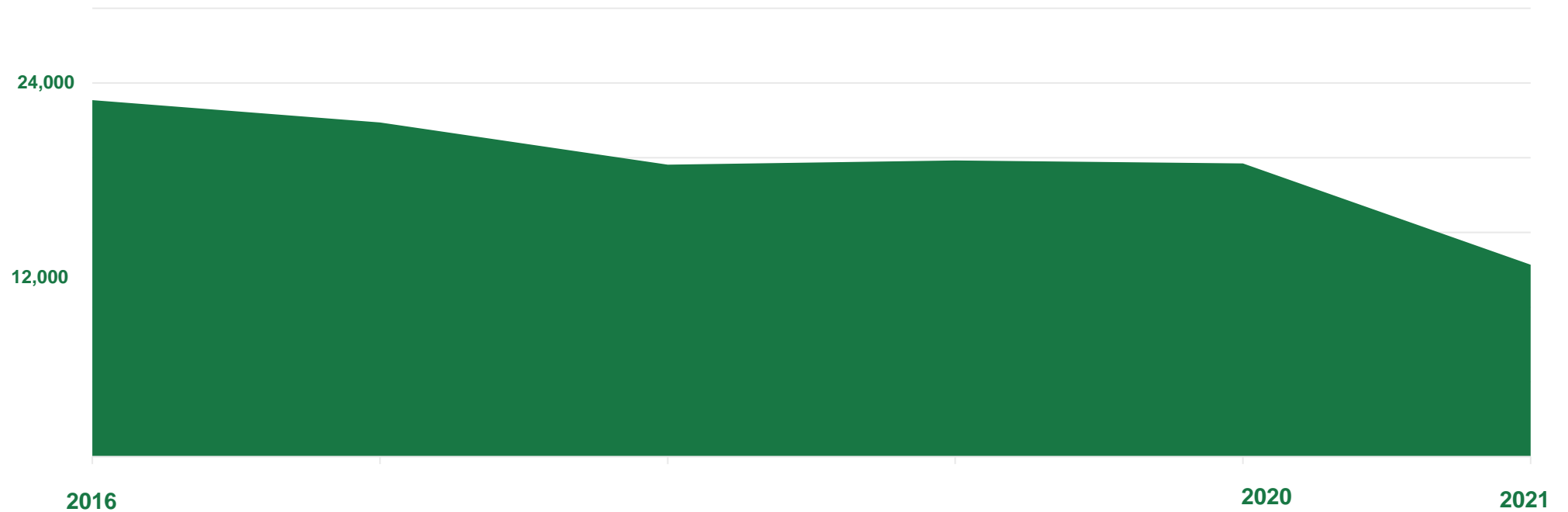


Sacramental trends



Youth Formation Trends

Faith formation enrollment was declining and then was severely impacted by Covid.



Catholic Schools trend



Overall Catholic School enrollment is flat

Since school year 2015-2016:

- Grades K-8 Catholic student enrollment declined **-4%** from 13,224 to 12,684
- Grades 9-12 Catholic student enrollment grew **+7%** from 2,395 to 2,567

By school year 2032-2033, we project grades K-8 enrollment will decline **-0.9%** to ~12,500 and grades 9-12 enrollment will grow **+7.0%** to ~2,700

Financial

Long-term financial sustainability of parishes is uncertain if we continue to rely on extraordinary income.



Percentage of Parishes operating a deficit

(excluding extraordinary activity)



Parishes relying on more than Sunday contributions to fund ministries & pay staff

Contributions increased a modest 1.6% over the most recent five years



Many parishes relying on non-operating income to break even

Including facility rental



Priest trends: Ordinations

Estimated average number of ordinations per year: **2**

Appx. number of priests over next 10 years: **20**

Estimated number that will become pastors in 10 years: **10**

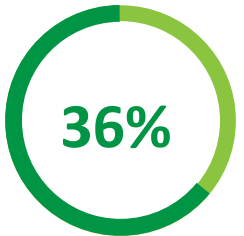
Remaining 10 will become parochial vicars

Priest trends: Pastors



11%

Percentage of current Archdiocesan priests eligible for retirement now



36%

Percentage of Archdiocesan priests eligible for retirement in 10 years

60

Est. number of non-retirement age Archdiocesan priests eligible to be pastors in 2032

Our history indicates 50-75% will become pastors in the new parish family configurations



Summary

- Pastoral resources are declining, and current structure of parishes and pastors is not sustainable.
- Parishes are “living beyond their means,” while struggling to support staff, ministries and outreach.
- These factors affect the faith experience of parishioners.
- A significant restructuring as well as re-envisioning appear to be required.

**“The status quo
is no longer an
option.”**

-Archbishop Etienne



We need to change so we
can re-envision parish life
and better achieve our
mission as Church.

A photograph of a group of people, likely in a church or a religious gathering, with a green color overlay. In the foreground, a woman is shown in profile, looking upwards with her hands clasped in prayer. Behind her, other people are visible, some also with their hands raised or clasped. The text "Now what?" is overlaid in white, bold font in the center of the image.

Now what?



PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL

Archdiocese of Seattle

MISSION

Jesus said to his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." MATTHEW 28:18-20

VISION

ENCOUNTER

Encounter Jesus Christ and one another.

ACCOMPANY

Accompany each other, as one human family, on the journey of discipleship.

LIVE THE GOSPEL

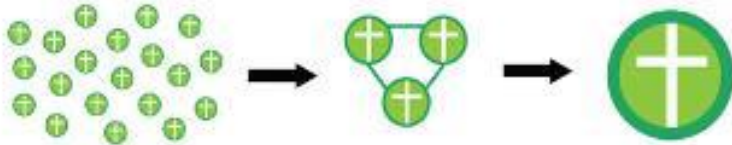
Live the unconditional love and joy of the Gospel.



Archdiocese of Seattle

RE-ENVISIONING PARISH LIFE

Strategic Planning



Governance & Leadership

Administration, Infrastructure,
& Finance



Pastoral Planning

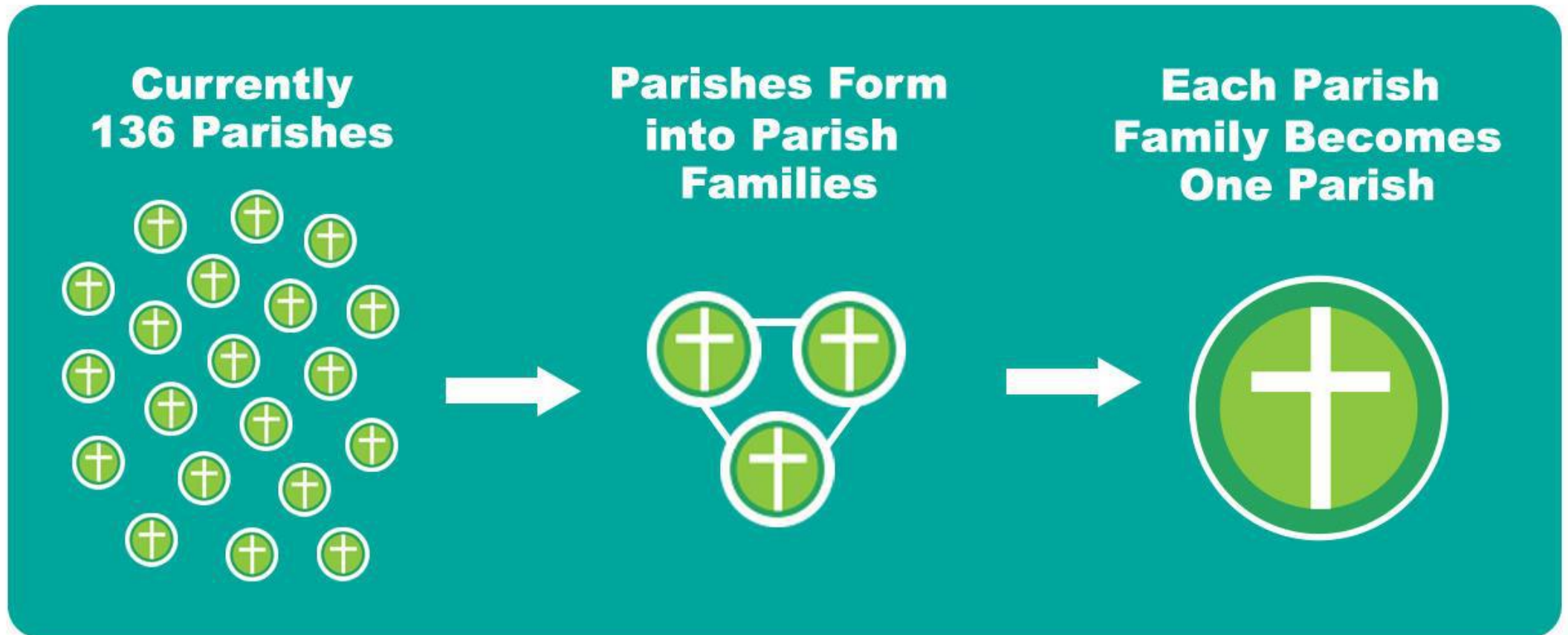
Worship & Prayer

Community

Discipleship

Mission & Evangelization

The journey to vibrancy



Partners working together

- All grounded in discernment
- Consultative process so everyone has a voice
- Parish families will form based on input and prayer
- Archdiocese assigns pastor and parochial vicar(s) and provides guidebook for planning and ongoing support
- Opportunity for great creativity!

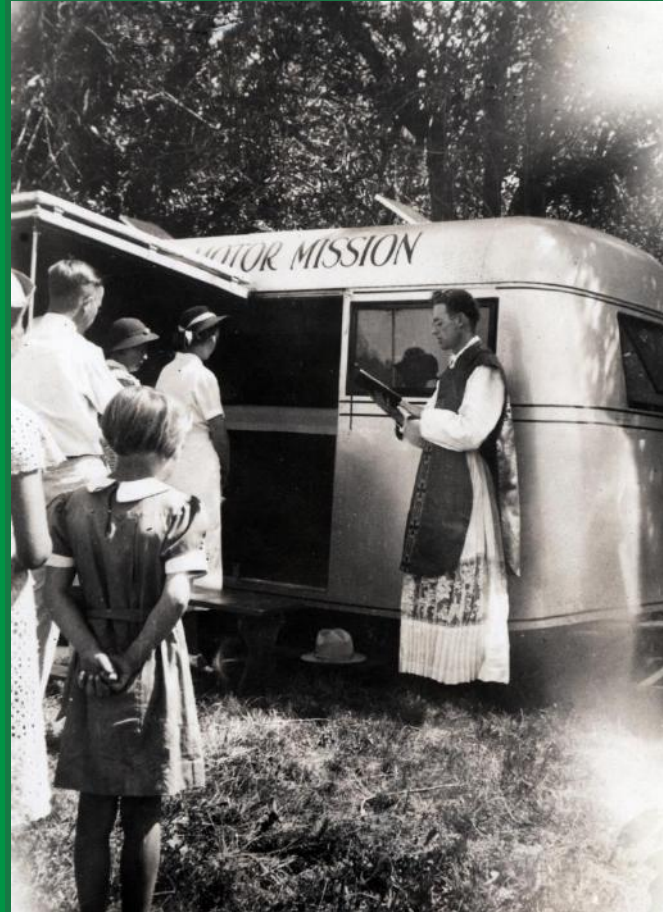
History of change

- **1838** First priests arrive
- **1850** Diocese of Nesqually founded
- **1856** Sisters of Providence arrive
- **1904** Cathedral moved to Seattle
- **1900s** Local church grows rapidly
- **1951** Seattle elevated to Archdiocese
- **1970s** Second Vatican Council reforms
- **1980s** Growth in multi-cultural ministry
- **Today** Global synod



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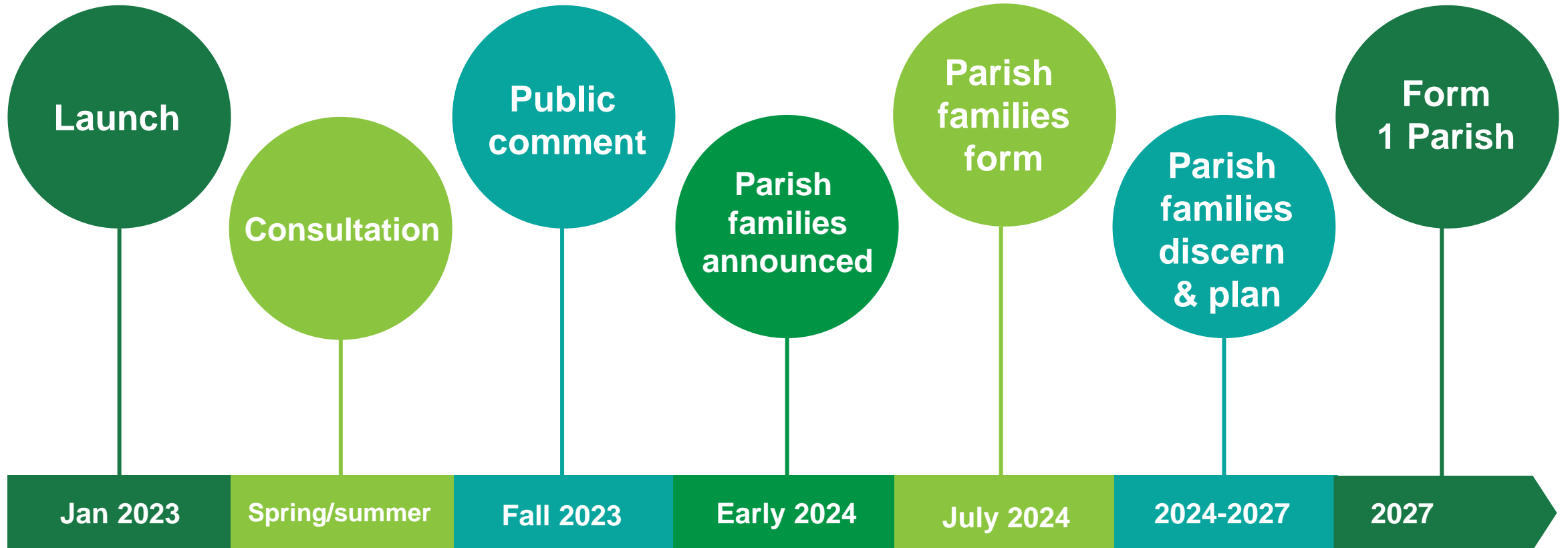
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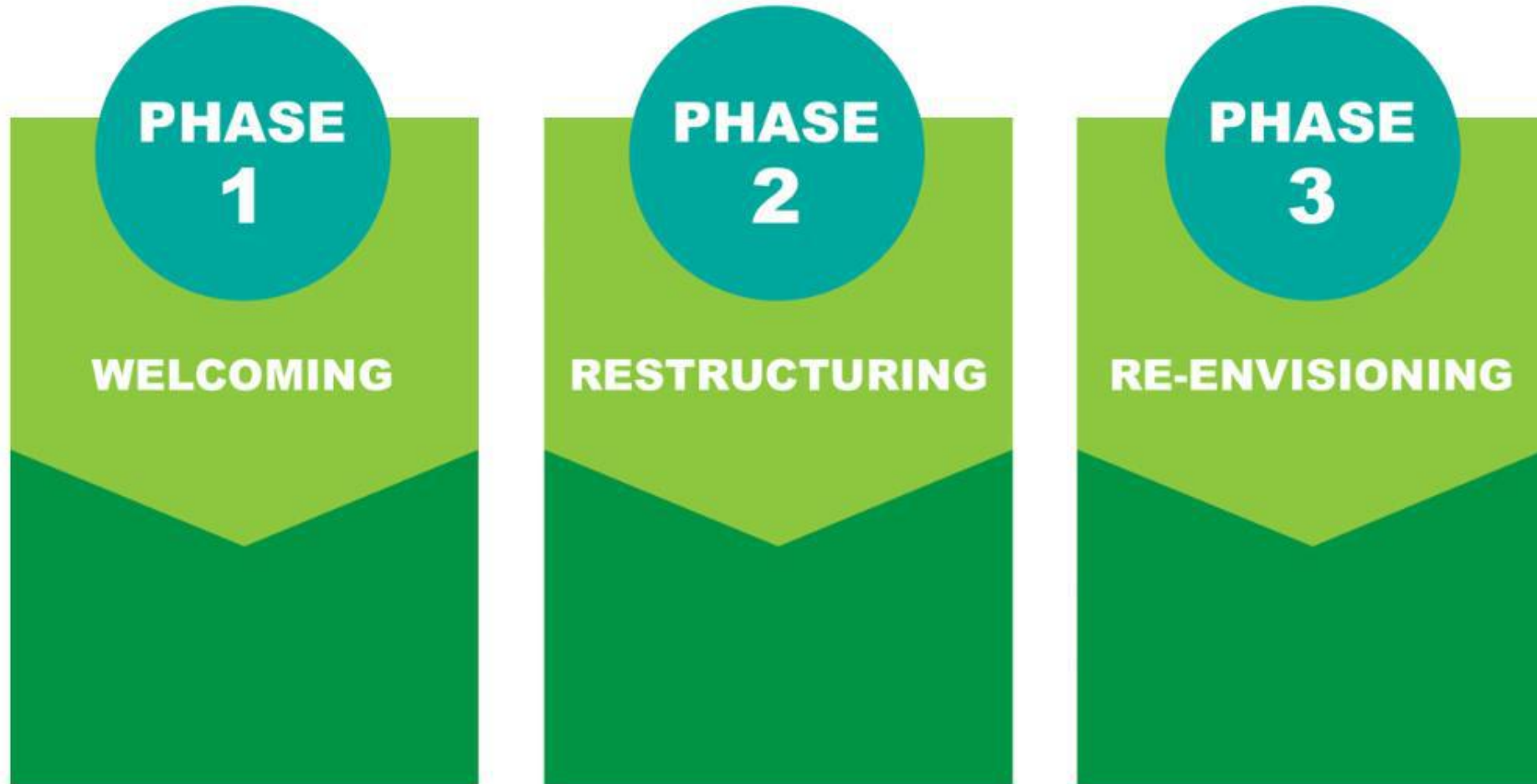




Timeline



Phased approach



Next steps

- Priests are currently providing input on the parish families.
- Parish and school staff will provide input on family configurations in August and September.
- Everyone invited to provide input end of September through mid-October.
 - Local parish meetings
 - Online survey form
- Archbishop reviews recommendations, discerns, and promulgates the new families in early 2024.



Together

The focus is creative re-envisioning to help people know Jesus Christ.

We need you on this journey.

- **Listen** to the Holy Spirit.
- **Pray** for this effort.
- **Engage** with your parish.
- **Provide** your input.

Together we can renew our local Church.



Stay engaged

- Read the Partners in the Gospel UPDATE newsletter
- Read Northwest Catholic
- Watch for new bulletin inserts

<https://archseattle.org/partners>

April 2023 – Vol. 1 No. 3b



**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

UPDATE

An update for parishes and parishioners on Partners in the Gospel

[Read newsletter in Spanish](#)



I'm willing to take action.

Jesus Gomez Sanchez, parishioner from of St. Joseph Parish in Vancouver, shares his perspective about Partners in the Gospel.

Watch in [English](#) or with [Spanish subtitles](#).

The Partners in the Gospel consultative process for parish family configurations has officially begun.

PartnersEdge, consultants who have worked with several other dioceses, delivered “Draft Zero” of potential parish family configurations based on their data analysis. Specifically,

“Partners in the Gospel

is ... meant to help us live our faith in face of the challenges

A young child in the center of the frame is wearing a traditional Native American headdress with blue and white feathers. They are also wearing a dark vest with a scalloped collar and a central emblem. The child is holding a smartphone in their right hand. In the background, other children in similar traditional attire are visible, some holding flags. The entire image has a green tint.

Thank you!