

**MINUTES**  
**PARISH FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**FAMILY 8 (EAST SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARISHES)**  
**March 12, 2026 6:30 pm**

**PFAC Members Present:**

Holy Cross – Carmella Barger, Laurel Cheap, Pat Thomson  
St. Michael – Claudia Barajas, Adrian Ceja (virtual)  
St. Mary of the Valley – Jorge Maldonado, Jim McDaniel, Janina Meeks

**PFAC Leadership (Staff) Present:**

Holy Cross – LeeAnn Balbirona (virtual), Alicia Ramirez  
St. Michael – Emily Cona  
St. Mary of the Valley – Veronica Mendez  
Director of Operations – Annette Van Dyke

**Clergy Present:**

Fr. Roy Baroma, Priest Administrator

**St. Michael School Principal:**

Rosa Rivera (not present)

**Liaison Present:**

Gina DePalma

The meeting opened with Prayer at 6:40pm

• **Parish Updates**

- St. Michael – staffing transitions: in process of recruiting for a Sacrament Coordinator; have volunteers in place to help in the office while Emily is on leave until the end of July. Met goal for organ speaker fund raising, speakers are on order.
- St. Mary of the Valley – the new Admin Assistant is working out well. Parish groups are getting ready for Holy Week. Waiting to plan activities for summer.
- Holy Cross – Lent activities are going well and we're getting ready for Easter. Getting a lot of calls for Confirmation and First Communion prep. ACA training is tomorrow.

• **Listening Sessions on What are our gifts? Overview (Gina)**

- Listening sessions aren't required, but they are good to have so that people can get familiar with the process and will keep coming when future input is requested.
- To prepare for the sessions, they need to be publicized through bulletin and ambo announcements, as well as on the websites and social media.
- Whatcom Catholic is a good example of how to run a successful series of listening sessions. [Please look at their website to get an idea of how they publicize the Partners in the Gospel process: <https://www.whatcomcatholic.org/about-the-process>]
- They had people pre-register with options to volunteer as note takers, hospitality, etc. There is online training on how to facilitate listening sessions and how to be a note taker. [See <https://vimeo.com/1093870316/d9546b28ed>]
- For this round of listening sessions on What are our Gifts, parishioners will be answering the questions at their home parish. PFAC members from each parish could hand out

pre-registration forms at each Mass. We want to personally invite people to participate and the questions are provided in advance.

- After the listening sessions, PFAC members and volunteers will provide a synthesis for each parish, then a synthesis for the family. Again, whatcomcatholic.org has published their syntheses. About 20-30% of their households went to a listening session.
  - The minimum number of sessions required is 1 per family, but it might be more productive to do more, with listening sessions at each parish within the family.
  - Next steps for our family: PFAC representatives from each parish need to meet to decide when to hold listening sessions and how many (consider Spanish sessions, daytime and evening, providing childcare, etc.). Advertise/publicize at the ambo, bulletin, website and social media (Annette, Alicia, and Pat volunteered to be on the Communications Subcommittee). Priest support is crucial.
- **Listening Session Planning Discussion**
    - It was decided to hold listening sessions June 6-14.
    - Each parish needs to meet and decide their session dates and times by March 29. Annette will be emailing everyone to get status updates.
    - The Communications Subcommittee will put together a timetable of announcements and design a pre-registration/interest form.
    - Interest forms should be distributed at Mass sometime after Easter. PFAC members should start thinking about who they can recruit to help as facilitators, notetakers and hospitality providers.
    - Announcements need to not only publicize the listening sessions, but also educate parishioners on Partners in the Gospel and how their contribution to this process will help our pastor discern the future of our parishes. It was suggested that a Partners in the Gospel information table be available after Masses.
  - **Retreat on April 25**
    - St. Mary in Anacortes will be hosting a priest from the east coast who will run a retreat geared towards the PFAC on April 25. There is a suggested donation of \$50 per person. Mass will be at 9am; coffee and lunch will be provided. The retreat will end at 4pm. They are working on a registration form.
  - **Fr. Roy** - thanked everyone for continuing to meet. He also wants everyone to keep thinking about a location to hold a Mass for the parish family so that everyone can gather.

The meeting ended at 8:00pm with closing song and prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Annette Van Dyke*

**Future Meetings:**

April – No Meeting

May 14

June 11