

Renewing our Mission

On February 19th, Archbishop Sample gathered priests from across the Archdiocese to launch Mission Renewal, a collaborative effort to deepen our commitment to proclaim the Gospel and invigorate parish life in Western Oregon. Drawing on Jesus' words - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19) - the Archbishop highlighted that our mission is to bring people into a life-giving, ongoing and transformational encounter with Jesus Christ.

As part of this initiative, each parish will undertake a prayerful self-examen by April 2, 2025, guided by its pastor and parish leadership. These discussions will explore areas such as Divine Worship, Proclamation of the Gospel, Stewardship, Works of Mercy, and Missionary Discipleship. The goal is to help parishes discern both their strengths and opportunities for growth, so they can more effectively share the Good News with all people.

The Archbishop stressed that the parishes will drive this process forward not the Pastoral Center. "The Archdiocese of Portland is the local church - all of us united in the Body of Christ," he said. "We are not a 'confederation' of parishes that have come together, but one local Church, sent to bring the hope of the Gospel to everyone in Western Oregon." He emphasized that the Pastoral Center will also undergo its own renewal in order to better support parishes.

Following the self-examen, some parishes may invite the Archbishop and his team to provide deeper guidance and support. In a later stage, the Archbishop and his leadership team will also identify parishes they believe would benefit from additional study or further review, ensuring that each parish community is well-positioned for mission and evangelization.

While the initial stages of Mission Renewal are expected to be well underway by the close of the Jubilee Year in January 2026, the Archbishop anticipates that ongoing renewal efforts will continue beyond that date to strengthen every parish's capacity for evangelization.

For more information—or to discover how you can be part of this effort—please contact your pastor.