



+ April 6 - 7, 2024

*To the Parishioners of
St. Theresa Parish, Federal Way
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Federal Way*

Dear Friends,

I am happy to greet all of you in the name of the Risen Lord Jesus!

As archbishop, I have the important responsibility and honor of providing you with ongoing pastoral care and sacramental ministry in your parish community.

Today, I write to inform you that your parish will be entering a time of transition in pastoral leadership beginning July 1, 2024. I am pleased to announce that, after consultation with the Priest Personnel Board, I have appointed Father Michael Dion as your new pastor and Father John Patrick DePalma as your parochial vicar. Presently, Father Dion is the pastor of St. Michael Parish in Snohomish and can minister in both English and Spanish. He will continue to serve the archdiocese as Director of Formation of the Permanent Diaconate. As you know, Father DePalma is the priest administrator of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

These priests are wonderful men who will diligently and faithfully serve you and your parish family. Be assured that they will receive all the necessary support and assistance from the Archdiocese of Seattle to ensure quality pastoral care for your parish family.

At the same time, I want to personally thank Father Jay Bonete and Father Gilberto Mora Tapia for their wonderful service and leadership these last five and eight years respectively. I ask you to please keep them in your prayers as they move forward in responding to God's call. Father Jay will return to the Archdiocese of Capiz in the Philippines as his religious worker visa expires this June. Father Mora Tapia will be the parochial vicar for parish families in Kent, Renton, and Tacoma.

Times of transition can be challenging, especially as we prepare to say goodbye to a familiar presence and welcome new pastoral leaders. However, if embraced in an open and positive way, this can be a time of blessing for the entire parish and the Catholic Church of Western Washington. I am confident that will be the case as you welcome Father Dion and Father DePalma to your parish. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul D. Etienne".

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle



Rev. Michael A. Dion,
appointed Pastor for parish
family 31 while continuing to
serve as Director of Formation of
the Permanent Diaconate.



Rev. John Patrick DePalma,
appointed Parochial Vicar for
parish family 31.