



+ March 28, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I pray this Lenten season of renewal is fruitful for you. It has given me time to reflect on my own ministry and how our local Church acts as the Body of Christ in today's world. With that in mind, I'm writing today to share a new leadership structure for the Archdiocese of Seattle, which continues our work to re-envision the Chancery so we can effectively support our parishes and schools, the Partners in the Gospel effort and the mission of the Church.

For those who may not know, the archdiocese spans from the Canadian border to the border of Oregon on the western side of the Cascades. It includes 174 locations serving 130,000 households (about 330,000 people) and 72 Catholic schools serving around 21,000 students. We have a very geographically and ethnically diverse archdiocese, and as its shepherd I am keenly aware of the need to serve everyone across the region.

For this reason, our two auxiliary bishops — Bishop Eusebio Elizondo and Bishop Frank Schuster — will become regional bishops so that we can better support all parts of our archdiocese. With the new model starting July 1, 2023, our auxiliary bishops will no longer serve as pastors of parishes and no longer keep offices at the Chancery, but rather live and work out in the archdiocese with greater emphasis on pastoral care. I am so pleased they will be sharing their incredible gifts with all the people of God. Specifically,

- Bishop Elizondo will be responsible for the Northern, Snohomish, Olympic, Eastside and North Seattle deaneries, while continuing to minister to our growing Hispanic community.
- Bishop Schuster will be responsible for the South Seattle, South King, Pierce, South Sound, and Southern deaneries.

Primarily, the auxiliary bishops will accompany our clergy, especially pastors, pastoral leaders, religious, parishes and deaneries in their respective regions as we continue our Partners in the Gospel strategic pastoral planning process.

As you know, I hold our auxiliary bishops in high esteem, and I am incredibly grateful for their support both personally and on behalf of the people of God of the Archdiocese of Seattle. While this new role seeks to broaden their pastoral presence among the people of God, they will continue to be vital members of our archdiocesan leadership team.

With our auxiliary bishops serving their respective regions, I have appointed Father Gary Lazzeroni as a Vicar General, effective May 1, 2023. He will work in the Chancery as the co-lead for Partners in

the Gospel with Caitlin Moulding and will oversee the pastoral ministry teams at the Chancery, specifically:

- The Pastoral Care and Outreach team led by Executive Director, Joe Cotton, which will focus on ministries including youth and young adult, immigrant and refugee, hospital, mental health, inclusion and criminal justice.
- The Integral Human Development team, for which we are hiring a new executive director to oversee faith formation, marriage and family and multicultural ministry, and support Hispanic and other ministries. The executive director will also be responsible for bringing the Laudato si' Action Platform to life in the archdiocese. Until an executive director is hired, leaders in these areas will report to Father Lazzeroni.
- The Faith Formation program support team of Lisa Hillyard and Beata Gando will temporarily move to the Communications team to ensure they are supported until a new executive director of Integral Human Development is hired.

Additional changes include the following:

- Program Manager Joseph Tancioco, Translation Specialist Make Gallitelli and Marketing Coordinator Renee Maranan will move to the Communications team.
- Deacon Eric Paige has taken a new role in the Office of the Vicar for Clergy, where he will oversee clergy and lay ecclesial ministry formation and deacon services.
- The Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center and CYO Camps will be overseen by Chief Financial Officer Megan Slivinski.

These changes are one way we are re-envisioning the Chancery and how we support parishes and schools, as part of the ongoing Partners in the Gospel renewal effort. We are blessed to have many faithful people using their talents to serve our local Church. I am truly grateful for their dedication and commitment to our mission.

We have many changes taking place and even positive changes like these can be difficult. I truly appreciate all who serve the Archdiocese in our parishes, schools, Chancery, Catholic Community Services and Catholic Housing Services, Catholic health care, and all our ministries and services. Together, we do so much good in the name of Christ for the common good of the broader society – and this is our mission.

I am deeply grateful for the faith of all our people. Keep living the faith. Keep bringing Christ to others in everything you do. Keep leading others to Christ, and the mission of Christ will continue to advance in our portion of God's Kingdom. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul D. Etienne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "E".

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