

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 6, 2014**

## **Priest placed on leave for financial policy violations**

The Archdiocese of Seattle today announced discovery of violations of archdiocesan financial policies by one of its priests. A routine financial review following a change in leadership at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Vancouver revealed the violations in policy by former pastor Father Armando Perez.

Father Perez, who is currently pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Renton, was placed on administrative leave Friday, Dec. 5 by Archbishop J. Peter Sartain while the matter is investigated by law enforcement.

A preliminary parish review indicates a possible financial loss exceeding \$50,000 over a three-year period. The results of the review have been turned over to the Clark County Sheriff's Office for further investigation.

In addition to placing Father Perez on administrative leave, Archbishop Sartain has requested that he seek evaluation and possible treatment.

Father Perez, 54, had been pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish from July 2003 until his appointment in July as pastor of St. Anthony parish. He was ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of Seattle in June of 2002 and served as a parochial vicar to several Lewis County parishes from his ordination until his appointment as pastor.

Archbishop Sartain said the current financial procedures at St. John Parish have been reviewed to assure that the finances are being properly handled and that appropriate controls are in place to prevent future misdirection of funds. The archdiocese also will explore means of restitution and replacement of funds to the parish, he said.

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