



+ February 23, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Catholic community is deeply saddened by the tragic events that took place today at the headquarters of Catholic Community Services and Catholic Housing Services.

This afternoon, a distraught individual came to the headquarters at the Randolph Carter Family and Learning Center. He threatened the life of a staff member before taking his own life. Mercifully, no one else was harmed and all of the staff were able to safely leave the building.

Events like this remind us of the stress and pain that unrelenting poverty can bring. Events like this remind us of the real suffering and frustration that coincide with untreated health conditions. Events like this remind us of the desperation and hopelessness people feel before taking their own lives – a tragic trend that is exacerbated by the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our prayers and thoughts are with the deceased person and his family. Our prayers are also with everyone who was part of or witnessed today's painful events. I pray that everyone involved is aware of and reminded of God's profound love, and I ask the Holy Spirit to provide healing and comfort to our families and communities, especially those who are poor, fearful and vulnerable during these most challenging of times.

We are called by Jesus Christ to accompany the poor and care for them. This is what CCS and CHS employees do every day; they journey with the people they serve through very challenging difficulties – and they do so with the love and care of our Savior. I want to thank all CCS/CHS employees for their dedication and for their response to the Gospel. I also want to especially express my gratitude for the employees and leadership at the Randolph Carter Center who quickly followed all safety protocols and took control of today's situation.

Additionally, on behalf of the larger Catholic community, I would like to thank the Seattle Police Department and all public safety and emergency responders. Officers and emergency personnel quickly responded and expertly took over the situation in a way that helped quell concerns about ongoing threats.

Lastly, I encourage anyone who is struggling during these difficult times, or who has a loved one who is struggling, to reach out for help. Our Catholic community is here to support you through our parishes, CCS, or our mental health ministries. Please remember that you are not alone.

In the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Etienne".

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