

**For Immediate Release****Archbishop Paul D. Etienne Issues Decrees for New Parish in Everett**
Merging parishes become new Our Lady of Hope parish

SEATTLE, May 2, 2022 – Today Archbishop Paul D. Etienne issued decrees for two parishes involved in the strategic planning efforts in Everett. The parishes of Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Perpetual Help will merge to form the new parish of Our Lady of Hope, effective July 1, 2022.

“Together as one new community, Our Lady of Hope Parish will be on a stronger foundation to meet the pastoral needs of its people, to increase its outreach efforts, to joyfully share the Gospel of the Lord with robust evangelization efforts and to help bring Christ to the people of Everett,” Archbishop Etienne said. “This is a significant step that gives me great hope for the future.”

These decrees come after a multiyear consultative planning process, which was led by the pastoral leaders at the parishes and the archdiocese’s Strategic Planning Committee. Parish leaders shared multiple reports about the vibrancy of each parish and held multiple listening sessions with parishioners and school families for feedback and ideas. After consultation, prayer and discernment, the parish leadership and Strategic Planning Committee ultimately made a recommendation to merge the parishes, which had already consolidated some of their operations over the past several years.

Our Lady of Hope Parish will operate on what is currently the Immaculate Conception campus. Father Joseph Altenhofen, currently the shared pastor for Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, will remain pastor. Most Masses will be celebrated at what is currently Immaculate Conception Church, with the exception of the Saturday vigil, which will be celebrated in what is currently Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, which will become a chapel. Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School will change its name to Our Lady of Hope and will continue operating in its current building on Hoyt Avenue.

“I am excited that we have an incredible opportunity to re-envision our parish,” said Father Altenhofen. “Together we have the opportunity to form something new — something inspired by the Holy Spirit. We are on an important journey to build a stronger, united community of faith.”

About the Archdiocese of Seattle

The Archdiocese of Seattle encompasses all of Western Washington, stretching from Canada to Oregon and from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. There are 72 Catholic schools, and 174 parishes, missions and pastoral centers in the archdiocese, with more than 500 weekly Masses celebrated in eight languages. Archbishop Paul D. Etienne leads the archdiocese with his auxiliary bishops, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo and Bishop-elect Frank Schuster. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit archseattle.org.

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