



For Immediate Release

Archdiocese of Seattle Establishes the St. Joseph Foundation

Supports long-term needs of the Catholic community in Western Washington

SEATTLE, September 19, 2022 – On the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, Archbishop Paul D. Etienne announced the establishment of the St. Joseph Foundation, a new Catholic foundation dedicated to connecting faith with charitable giving. The St. Joseph Foundation will raise funds to provide long-term support for efforts that address the spiritual, educational and ministerial needs of the Catholic community in Western Washington.

“St. Joseph is the patron of the Universal Church, which is why we have embraced his name for this Foundation,” said Archbishop Etienne. “Just as St. Joseph cared for the Holy Family, may his intercession help us through this foundation to care for the local portion of God’s family in the Church in Western Washington.”

Founding Gifts

“Our first donors recognized the opportunity to carry out Christ’s mission and offered gifts that made this foundation a reality,” said Archbishop Etienne, who also made a personal gift to the foundation. “I am immensely grateful to everyone who brought this foundation to fruition, whether through financial gifts or gifts of talent.”

The St. Joseph Foundation was originally established in 2021 with a major donation of \$6.8 million from Theiline P. Scheumann. Known for her generous philanthropic work in the Northwest, including support of the Catholic Church and Catholic education, Scheumann gave this gift to the foundation in support of direct assistance to the poor, ministries and seminarian education.

Prior to her death on December 30, 2021, she said, “I feel strongly about philanthropy and the positive difference it can make in the world. I have given funds to specific programs along with giving unrestricted funds to proven charities for overall organizational operations.”

“It is because of Mrs. Scheumann’s generous seed gift that we were able to take our vision for this Catholic foundation and bring it to life. For that, I am incredibly thankful,” said Archbishop Etienne.

Funding Priorities & Grant Distribution

On behalf of the Archbishop of Seattle, the St. Joseph Foundation is governed by a separate 501(c)(3) Board of Trustees responsible for approving and distributing grants, as well as ensuring best practices for governance.

“This new foundation provides an incredible opportunity for faith-based philanthropy that will help the local Catholic community for decades to come,” said April Collier, Vice President of the St. Joseph Foundation and interim-Executive Director of Development at the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Specifically, the St. Joseph Foundation will prioritize three areas of funding:

- **Catholic Initiatives**

To advance the beliefs, teachings and spirit of the Catholic Church, and support the spiritual, educational and social needs of the Catholic community in Western Washington by supporting not-for-profit Catholic organizations and general archdiocesan needs.

- **Pastoral Ministries**

To advance archdiocesan pastoral ministries that support missionary discipleship, Catholic social teaching and other efforts to spread the Gospel. This includes special priorities such as the environmental initiatives outlined in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

- **Faith Formation and Education**

To advance the continuing education and faith formation for lay ministers, deacons, seminarians and priests in support of advancing the mission of the Church in Western Washington.

The foundation will distribute foundation-directed grants, which are discretionary grants identified by the foundation and recommended to the Board of Directors for approval.

To learn more about the St. Joseph Foundation or to apply for a grant, please visit <https://archseattle.org/st-joseph-foundation>.

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 Frank Schuster. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit archseattle.org.

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