



+ April 8, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy Easter! The Risen Christ manifests the fullness of God's glory and reminds us of his great love for us. This season is a time of renewal and new life, which is providential as we mark another key milestone in our Partners in the Gospel efforts to renew and re-envision parish life.

As many of you know, this past weekend we announced the official pastoral changes that will go into effect on July 1, 2024. These assignments are unlike any in our history given the large number of priests who will serve a different parish family.

The Holy Spirit was truly with us and guiding us through this complex process. I am so grateful to the Priest Personnel Board for the countless hours dedicated to this work, for their prayerful discernment about each individual assignment.

As your shepherd, I have the responsibility to ensure the spiritual and pastoral care of everyone in the archdiocese. With this responsibility in mind, we worked diligently and prayerfully to discern the best pastoral leader for each parish family. In some cases that meant a pastoral leader moved to a new parish family, and in other cases it meant the pastoral leader remained in the existing parish while assuming the responsibility for additional parishes in the new family.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all the priests and lay pastoral leaders in the archdiocese for their willingness to serve the People of God by helping them encounter Christ, accompany each other on the journey of faith and live the joy of the Gospel. We spoke directly with every priest and lay leader more than once about their assignments to ensure their gifts and talents would be a good match for the needs and desires of the new parish families. I am so humbled and awed by the generous response of your priests and lay leaders! Their willingness to give their lives to God and serve others is an inspiring and credible sign of God's love in our world today.

We are entering a time of transition and change as the Catholic Church in Western Washington. Let us all remain rooted in the Risen Christ and let his love, and the grace of the Holy Spirit, continue to guide us on this journey. I ask that you join me in praying for our pastoral leaders, lay and ordained, that they may experience their new opportunity with joyful hearts. Let us pray also for all the People of God, that they may embrace their new leaders and this time of transition with open hearts and a welcoming spirit. May the Risen Lord guide us on this next step in our journey as true Partners in the Gospel. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

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

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