



Archdiocese of Seattle Starts New Healing Ministry

Launches new Pastoral Care ministries and restructures Office of the Vicar General

SEATTLE, July 10, 2024 – As part of its re-envisioning effort, the Archdiocese of Seattle is adjusting the Chancery structure to better serve parish, schools and ministry staff, while offering more pastoral care. This includes the launch of a new Healing Ministry dedicated to helping victims of abuse as well as the reorganization of the Office of the Vicar General.

Healing for Abuse Survivors

“We remain committed to supporting those who have been harmed by people who serve on behalf of the Catholic Church, which is why I am so grateful we are adding a new healing ministry to our current victim assistance program,” said Archbishop Paul D. Etienne who has been proactively addressing the prevention and impact of abuse in the Catholic Church for more than two decades. “While we have apologized, developed new protocols, launched Safe Environment programs, and provided support to victims, we did not have a ministry dedicated to helping victim survivors heal. This is vital not only for them and their families, but for the healing of the whole Catholic family.”

Grounded in compassion, the newly formed Healing Ministry is a proactive effort to provide meaningful liturgical, pastoral and educational pathways to healing for individuals, families, and communities who have been harmed, especially by those working for and serving the Catholic Church.

“As a resource to parishes, Catholic schools, seminarians and clergy, the ministry will also provide education and training on recognizing the signs of abuse, abuse prevention and trauma sensitive pastoral competencies,” said the new program manager Sue Moreland, LICSW, an experienced psychotherapist who specialized in treating trauma, and who recently volunteered her time at her parish to organize and coordinate a healing ministry.

Offering more pastoral care

“Serving the people of God is at the heart of our mission and we must ensure we are organized in a way to do this effectively,” said Archbishop Etienne who appointed Father Gary Lazzeroni as the Vicar General in 2023.

Under Father Lazzeroni’s leadership, the Office of the Vicar General includes new ministries such as Integral Human Development, which comprises Care for Creation and life, peace, and justice efforts. The Vicar General’s Office, managed by Joe Cotton, will now include three distinct departments:

- **Lifelong Formation** - Department Head: Carlos Carrillo
By equipping and supporting parishes and the people of God through resources, ministerial trainings and events using an intercultural approach, this team helps form, nurture and accompany people of all ages to bring them into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Lifelong Formation consists of the following ministries: Youth Ministry, Faith Formation (English and Spanish), Young Adult Ministry, and Marriage and Family Life.
- **Intercultural Integration** - Department Head: Bishop Eusebio Elizondo
This team is dedicated to the elevation, celebration and integration of all Catholic cultural communities in Western Washington. Serving clergy, parish and school staff and ministry leaders, this team promotes and develops cultural awareness and intercultural competencies. The team empowers the people of God to better understand and respond to the pastoral needs of the ever-growing number of diverse parishioners and communities throughout the Archdiocese of Seattle.
- **Pastoral Care and Outreach** - Department Head: Terri Nelson
This team provides multiple pastoral ministries that promote missionary discipleship while developing relationships with people on the margins. The department attends to the [corporal](#) and [spiritual](#) works of mercy. The ministries offered by this team include the Agape Service Project, Care for Creation, Criminal Justice Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Disability Inclusion, Foster Care Ministry, Grief Ministry, Hospital and Healthcare Ministry, Immigrant and Refugee Ministry, Mental Health Ministry, Missions and Seafarers Ministry.

“This new structure ensures we are offering parishes a wide breadth of meaningful education and outreach resources and opportunities,” said Archbishop Etienne. “Doing so will keep us grounded in our mission of helping people encounter and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ today.”

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, 60 parish families with 174 pastoral locations in the archdiocese, with more than 500 weekly Masses celebrated in multiple 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, please visit archseattle.org.

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