



+ April 6-7, 2024

*To the Parishioners of
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Tacoma
St. Leo the Great Parish, Tacoma*

Dear Friends,

I am happy to greet all of you in the name of the Risen Lord Jesus!

As archbishop, I have the important responsibility and honor of providing you with ongoing pastoral care and sacramental ministry in your parish community.

Today, I write to inform you that your parish will be entering a time of transition in pastoral leadership beginning July 1, 2024. I am pleased to announce that, after consultation with the Priest Personnel Board, I have appointed Father Michael Radermacher as your pastor and Father Marc Powell as your parochial vicar. Father Radermacher is currently the pastor of All Saints Parish in Puyallup and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Fife, and Father Powell is the pastor of St. Benedict Parish and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Seattle.

These men are wonderful priests who will diligently and faithfully serve you and your parish family. Be assured that they will receive all the necessary support and assistance from the Archdiocese of Seattle to ensure quality pastoral care for your parish family.

At the same time, I want to personally thank Father Mike McDermott, Father Dwight Lewis, Father Elias Puentes, SJ, and Father Phil Boroughs, SJ, for their wonderful service and leadership. I ask you to please keep them in your prayers as they move forward in responding to God's call in new ways. Father McDermott will enter senior priest status after nearly 60 years of assigned priestly ministry for the archdiocese! Father Lewis will be a parochial vicar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Burien and St. Bernadette Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, both in Seattle. Father Puentes and Father Boroughs will take on new appointments with the Jesuits West Province.

Times of transition can be challenging, especially as we prepare to say goodbye to a familiar presence and welcome new pastoral leaders. However, if embraced in an open and positive way, this can be a time of blessing for the entire parish and the Catholic Church of Western Washington. I am confident that will be the case as you welcome Father Radermacher and Father Powell to your parish family. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul D. Etienne".

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

Dear Parishioners,

As you know the Archdiocese is undertaking a major reorganization of its parishes. The ultimate goal of this effort is to strengthen our parish communities.

In the United States and in our Archdiocese, the normal assignment for pastors is a period of six years, renewable for a second term. For a variety of reasons, I have now completed four six year terms as pastor at St. Charles.

I'm very grateful for the time I have been at St. Charles. You, and all of our fellow parishioners, have help me grow in countless ways. I can only ask God to continue to bless you and the Risen Christ lead you safely on your journey.

Between now and July 1,2024 we are in Phase 0 – preparing for Phase 1 which will last for three years. During this time the parishioners will get to know one another, dialogue and discern how best to work together and become one parish. After three years the second Phase will begin as the new parish, now consisting of St. Charles and St. Leo's operate as one.

Turning 85 next September and given my difficulty in walking at this time, I judged that it would not be wise for me to remain as pastor for another three years much less six more. It would be much better to have a pastor to both lead the integration process of Phase I and the stabilization of Phase II.

I'm delighted to know that the Archbishop has appointed Fr. Michael Rademacher as pastor beginning July 1, 2024. He has been pastor of two parishes each with a school. He served for a number of years a trustee for the Archdiocesan Fulcrum Foundation. He also served for served for several terms as a member of the Archdiocesan Priest Personnel Board.

Fr. Marc Powell will come as Parochial Vicar. Fr. Marc was pastor at St. John Bosco and is now serving as pastor of St. Catherine and St. Benedict's in Seattle.

Both Fr. Michael and Fr. Marc began their Priestly Ministry as Parochial Vicars here at St. Charles. As you once supported them at the beginning of their ministry, I pray you will joyfully welcome and support them now as they return to St. Charles.

Jesus once told his disciples that if he did not go the Spirit would not come. My prayer for each of you is that the Holy Spirit will fill each of us with consolation and courage for the journey ahead.

Let us continue to pray for one another.

Peace,

Fr Mike