

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

April 8, 2024

Dear Friends,

By now, you have probably received the latest news regarding our new Parish Family which, as of July 1, will include the parishes of Immaculate Conception and Christ Our Hope. I am honored that Archbishop Etienne has appointed me pastor of these three parishes, and I look forward to walking the journey of faith with these wonderful communities in the months and years to come. I hope you do, too. I am confident that as we come to know each other, we will learn from each other, and the ministries we currently offer will be greatly enriched and strengthened.

Of course, none of this will happen all at once! This early in the process it is impossible to predict just how we will work together within our family and how we will draw on each other strengths. One thing is certain: we will look for ways to listen to each other's stories in a way that will help us respect the rich history and culture of each of our parishes. This is something that will take time and effort, but if we do it right, I am confident that, together, we can build something better than we ever could by ourselves, and that we will *become* something better, too: better partners in the gospel, better witnesses to the gospel. May it be so!

I mentioned on Sunday that the very gifted and talented lay ministers on our respective parish staffs are committed to working together in the days ahead. This will, no doubt, begin in small ways and build over time as we come to know each other better and begin to see new possibilities for ministry - especially, just to cite one example, ministry to the poorest and neediest among us in our downtown and central district as well as advocacy for justice. Powerful things are already happening; even more compelling possibilities are undoubtedly in our future.

There will be several priests assigned to our family so that we can continue to celebrate the Church's liturgy and make the sacraments available to as many as possible and in as convenient a way as possible. We are blessed to have, in addition to myself, four priests assigned to our family. Some of them are known to you, others, probably not. They are:

- **Father Alex Pablo** is the parochial vicar at St. James Cathedral and is also involved in serving the Filipino community around the Archdiocese.
- **Father Paul A. Magnano** is the founding pastor of Christ Our Hope. Since his "retirement," he has served as a parish priest for the Skagit Valley Catholic Churches.
- **Father Bryan L. Hersey** is currently parish priest at Christ Our Hope and chaplain to the First Hill hospitals, a ministry he will continue.

- **Father Gary F. Lazzeroni** is Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Seattle. Most recently, he served as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Vancouver.

As we enter this new moment, I want to acknowledge with gratitude the able leadership of Father Woody McCallister at Immaculate Conception these past three years. I know he will be missed! I also want to acknowledge the wonderful ministry of Deanna Tighe as Pastoral Coordinator at Christ our Hope. While we are losing Father Woody, who will be pastor of a new parish family, I'm happy to say that Deanna will continue her ministry at Christ our Hope.

We have challenges facing us in the days ahead, but I have every confidence that working together, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will more than meet them. May the blessings of the Risen Christ be ours in abundance!


Father Michael G. Ryan