



## Faculties Restored for Father William Harris

SEATTLE, July 25, 2022 – Archbishop Paul D. Etienne reinstated the faculties for Father William Harris, a senior priest in the Archdiocese of Seattle who was placed on leave during an investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, which was reported to have occurred more than 20 years ago.

The Archdiocese of Seattle Abuse Helpline received the allegation in October 2020, after which the team immediately followed standard reporting protocols, which include informing law enforcement, maintaining communication with the person reporting the abuse and placing Father Harris on a leave of absence during a preliminary investigation.

“We take allegations of abuse very seriously and are committed to providing a safe environment for everyone in our care,” said Archbishop Etienne. “The Archdiocese of Seattle has a longstanding commitment to transparency, accountability and assistance to persons who may have been harmed by anyone working on behalf of the Church. The individual who made the allegation has been offered the services of our Pastoral Outreach Coordinator.”

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican reviewed the results of the preliminary investigation and did not recommend further proceedings. Based on this, Archbishop Etienne reinstated Father Harris off of leave and restored his faculties as a senior priest in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

“I want healing for all our people and our Church. We must continue to pray for everyone involved in situations like this and encourage people who feel they have been harmed to come forward to receive the healing they need,” added Archbishop Etienne.

If you feel that you have been harmed by a member of the clergy or a layperson working on behalf of the Church, or know others who have, please contact law enforcement. You are also encouraged to call the archdiocesan Abuse Helpline at 1-800-446-7762. To learn more about the Archdiocese of Seattle’s commitment to healing, please visit the [Protect and Heal website](#).

### 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](http://archseattle.org).

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