

**For Immediate Release****Archbishop Paul D. Etienne Suspends Father M. Charles “Chuck” Palluck**

SEATTLE, August 8, 2022 – Archbishop Paul D. Etienne announced the suspension of Father M. Charles “Chuck” Palluck from priestly ministry after receiving an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, which was reported to have occurred more than 30 years ago. Father Palluck retired from full-time ministry in the Archdiocese of Seattle in 2009, and was previously the pastor of St. Barbara Catholic Parish in Black Diamond, Washington.

Allegations are claims that have not been proven true or false. At this time, guilt or innocence should not be assumed.

Notification of the allegation was received last week, after which the Archdiocese immediately followed standard reporting protocols. These protocols include informing law enforcement, suspending Father Palluck from priestly ministry during the investigation and notifying parishes where he has served.

“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 people who may have been sexually abused by clergy or by anyone working on behalf of the Church.”

The Archdiocese of Seattle will cooperate with law enforcement’s investigation and will conduct its own investigation, which includes input from the Archdiocesan Review Board, a third-party group of professionals who guide the archdiocese on matters relating to abuse.

“I want healing for our people and our Church. We must continue to pray for all involved 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 (1-800-446-7762). To learn more about the Archdiocese of Seattle’s commitment to healing, please visit the Protect and Heal website at protectandheal.seattlearchdiocese.org.

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.

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