ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

710 9TH AVE
SEATTLE, WA 98104-2017
www.archseattle.org

+June 28-29, 2025

Dear Parishioners of St. James Cathedral,

I write to you today in a time of transition for your parish and for the parish family that you share with Immaculate Conception and Christ Our Hope. As you celebrate Fr. Ryan and prepare to welcome Fr. Lazzeroni, I want to express my gratitude to Fr. Ryan for all that he has done and all that he has been for the Cathedral Parish and the Archdiocese of Seattle for the past six decades.

Since his ordination in Rome in December of 1966, Fr. Ryan's ministry for our local Church has been nothing short of remarkable. In the early years, as Vocations Director and Chancellor, he served our archdiocese helping to give shape to the implementation of the Second Vatican Council here. When Archbishop Hunthausen appointed him pastor of St. James Cathedral in July of 1988, Fr. Ryan was able to return to what he has always loved, full-time parish ministry.

And it is here, in this parish, among you and with you, that he has created his most important legacy. For these past thirty-seven years, Fr. Ryan has led you and worked with you to create a parish that truly shines as the mother church of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

The renovation of this beautiful worship space, the deep commitment to be the presence of Christ among those in need in Seattle, the relationships he has developed with ecumenical and interreligious leaders, the constant striving for engaged and active participation in the liturgy, including the commitment to beautiful music that draws people into a deeper relationship with the Lord, and so much more, has contributed to Fr. Ryan's profound impact on this parish and on the Catholic Church in western Washington.

As your Archbishop, and in the name of my predecessors that Fr. Ryan served so faithfully, Archbishops Connolly, Hunthausen, Murphy, Brunett, and Sartain, I want to express my deep thanks to Fr. Ryan for all he has been and all that he has done for this Cathedral Parish and for the Archdiocese of Seattle.

As he takes this new role among us as Pastor Emeritus, may you, and all of us, continue to enjoy the fruits of this most remarkable ministry, this most remarkable man and priest.

Thank you, Fr. Ryan! May God continue to bless you abundantly in the years to come.

Please be assured of my prayers. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

+Paul D. Etienne

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