



+ August 10, 2021

Dear Pastors and Principals,

Peace be with you! I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine and joy that the summer season brings.

As many of you know, last year I appointed Father Ronald Nuzzi to lead the Ministerial Covenant Taskforce. This special taskforce, composed of 10 volunteers, met monthly for the past year to discuss, pray, research and survey Catholics in our archdiocese – all to develop a set of recommendations about our ministerial covenant. They recently presented their recommendations to me, which were divided into four key categories, each with sub-recommendations, as well as the reasoning behind them.

I will now take these recommendations into prayer and begin my discernment process, which includes consulting with the various leadership teams that I rely on as your archbishop. Please know that this will take time, and I ask for your patience. I pray the Holy Spirit guides me and gives me the grace to hear our Lord and respond to his wishes.

Throughout this whole process, the special taskforce has been providing updates, which you can find [online here](#). Tomorrow, there will be a public news announcement, which will include a direct link to the report. I encourage you to share this with your communities.

I'd like to express my gratitude to everyone who has engaged in this process. The diligence applied by the special taskforce was remarkable. Their recommendations are very thorough and will give me much to consider during my discernment process. Taking up a challenging and important issue such as this is no easy task. I am incredibly grateful for this work and the gift that it is to our archdiocese.

Please pray for me during this time, as I will continue to pray for you. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Etienne".

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