



+ October 9, 2019

Dear Parishioners of Holy Rosary Parish in Tacoma,

Peace be with you!

Thank you for your hospitality when I joined you for Mass a few weeks ago. In communion with each other, we prayed for your community, and for that, I am grateful. At all times, and particularly in times of stress and anxiety, it is important for us to keep our focus on the presence of Christ among us (see Hebrews 12:2).

I wish to provide you with an update on the recourse process, which I know you are eagerly awaiting. As you know, Archbishop J. Peter Sartain issued a decree to demolish and raze the Holy Rosary church building earlier this year. In that decree, he indicated that recourse should be sent to the Office of the Archbishop by September 9, 2019.

We received numerous letters from the larger community, including several qualified petitions from your parish community. This means that recourse against the decree has been received and in a timely manner.

However, at this time, I am neither denying nor granting recourse against my predecessor's decree. Given the change in leadership during this recourse period, I need time to speak with your leadership team, review the issues, and make an informed, thoughtful, and prayerful response. Due to illness, I was unable to keep a scheduled meeting with that group last week.

This is a very difficult time for your community and for everyone involved, and I sincerely appreciate your patience during this process. I look forward to meeting with your leadership team at the end of this month, and I ask that we continue to journey together in prayerful communion. I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul D. Etienne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue circular mark at the beginning.

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