



For Immediate Release

Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy will Move to Fife St. Martin of Tours Parish Welcomes School Community

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 27, 2020 – Today the Archdiocese of Seattle announced that Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy will move from Tacoma to the St. Martin of Tours Parish campus in Fife starting with the 2020–2021 academic year. Father Michael Radermacher and Father Anh Tran will serve as the school priests.

“I am very excited about this move for our school community,” said Katie Dempsey, principal of Holy Rosary since 2015. “We can continue our mission as part of St. Martin of Tours Parish, which will provide us with weekly Masses in the church, strong pastoral leadership, financial support from the parish community, and a wonderful new home for our students, while embracing the diversity and accessibility that make our community so special.”

The school will retain its name, its uniforms and its emphasis on bilingual education. Pre-K classes will continue to be 100% Spanish immersion. Older students will have daily Spanish language classes, while other subjects will be taught in English. This shift from the current model of alternating days of English- and Spanish-language instruction will ensure that students can join the school at any grade level — a decision that supports the desire to increase enrollment and welcome students who wish to learn Spanish in this innovative program. The school will continue to offer after-school clubs and activities in Spanish, including Hispanic dance classes.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to expand Catholic school education,” said Kristin Dixon, superintendent of the Archdiocese of Seattle’s Office for Catholic Schools. “Holy Rosary school will be in a new location with a pastor and a parish who are really looking forward to welcoming them. This move also gives us the opportunity to serve a region of the archdiocese that currently lacks a Catholic school.”

The school will continue to serve students from Pre-K through eighth grade, with plans to add portable classrooms in 2021–2022 to handle the projected increase in enrollment.

St. Martin of Tours

“It’s been a long-held dream for the parishioners of St. Martin of Tours to have a parish school of their own,” said Father Michael Radermacher, St. Martin’s pastor. “I’m excited because the parish from its very inception has wanted to form the children of Fife in the faith.”

St. Martin of Tours is approximately 5 miles from the current school campus in Tacoma. The faith community’s roots go back to the late 1800s, and St. Martin’s was designated as a parish in 1942. The current church was dedicated in 1948, and the school building was built as a religious education center in the early 1960s. From 1993 to 2019, the school building served as the K–2 campus of Puyallup’s All Saints

School. The school building has been recently spruced up with a new roof, heating, air conditioning, new carpet and paint. The campus also features a large playfield, a gym/auditorium and a completely updated commercial-grade kitchen.

“Our students will thrive in this new learning environment,” said Dempsey, who acknowledged that the current Holy Rosary school building requires more than \$1 million in maintenance and renovations including the need for a new roof, new windows and heating on the first floor of the building. “We will be in a building that’s in much better condition and on a campus that is much safer than our current one.”

“The kids deserve to have a church, a priest, a safe campus and a nice facility in which to learn. The school deserves to have viability and a strong future that can be sustained. As part of the parish at St. Martin of Tours, I think that’s what we’ll have,” said Dempsey.

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 169 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 two auxiliary bishops, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo and Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit seattlearchdiocese.org.

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