



Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle Shares Real Estate Initiative to Support Mission of the Church

SEATTLE, November 17, 2021 – Today, the Archdiocese of Seattle shares its Catholic real estate vision, which aims to better serve communities and the mission of the Church by redeveloping underutilized properties for mission-critical uses such as community outreach, housing and ministry services.

“As an archdiocese, we are currently on retreat as part of our pastoral planning process to deepen our relationship with Christ and carry out his mission,” said Archbishop Paul D. Etienne. “Creatively thinking about our properties and how we can use them to further the mission of the Church is exactly what we need to do. By partnering with Catholic Community Services and Catholic Housing Services on this vision, we can also address the dire housing challenge faced by many of our brothers and sisters, while providing more ministries and services to the community.”

The Catholic Real Estate Initiative (CREI) is a collaboration between the archdiocese, parishes, schools, Catholic Community Services (CCS) and Catholic Housing Services (CHS) to evaluate Church-owned properties and determine potential sites to help implement this vision. While these entities have worked together for more than 40 years, this concerted effort ties to the pastoral planning process that aims to ensure all Catholic entities continue and strengthen their mission focus.

The CREI effort builds on prior successful collaborations where the archdiocese and parishes worked directly with CCS and CHS to develop new uses for Church-owned and other properties. Successful past collaborations include:

- Chancery Apartments, Seattle
- Franciscan Apartments, Burien
- Elbert House, Bellevue
(Note: This was not a Church-owned property, but the partnership was with the local parish community.)
- Josephinum, Seattle
- Matsusaka Townhomes, Tacoma
- Frederic Ozanam House, Seattle
- Martha’s Place, Mount Vernon
(Note: This was not a Church-owned property, but there was local parish involvement in identifying need and planning.)
- Hope House, Bellingham

“We’re eager to work with the archdiocese on implementing this vision to benefit the communities we serve,” said Michael Reichert, president of CCS and CHS. “This vision demonstrates how the Catholic Church is taking action to help alleviate the housing pressures in our region and to provide services and ministries in local communities. We are grateful to the archbishop and local parish communities for making these properties available to help meet the housing needs of our neighbors struggling with poverty, and we also look forward to working with local governments in their efforts to provide affordable housing in their communities.”

“It is our duty to be good stewards of all the blessings we have,” said Joe Schick, CFO of the Archdiocese of Seattle. “If we’re able to sell or redevelop underutilized properties, we’ll be able to enable more housing and more mission-critical work, while also investing in the future to continue the good work of the Catholic Church.”

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, 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 bishop, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit archseattle.org.

About Catholic Community Services/Catholic Housing Services of Western Washington

Catholic Community Services/Catholic Housing Services (CCS/CHS) is the largest private non-profit social service agency serving Western Washington. For over 100 years, the agency has compassionately provided quality, integrated social outreach and housing to poor and vulnerable children, women and men of all beliefs. Through over 170 programs, CCS/CHS offers an array of services that address nearly every human need including: pregnancy support, children’s mental health, case management, emergency food and shelter, youth tutoring, mental health and addiction recovery, and in-home care. CHS develops, owns or manages more than 2,500 affordable housing units at 62 properties throughout Western Washington. Housing and supportive services are provided to homeless and special needs individuals and families, low-income seniors, farmworkers and veterans.

On average, CCS/CHS employees and volunteers come from many faith traditions to serve and support nearly 100,000 children, women and men annually. For more information, visit ccsww.org.

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