



June 5, 2017

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Bishops of the State of Washington, I am happy to announce that Joseph A. Sprague will assume the position of Executive Director of the Washington State Catholic Conference, effective October 2.

Joe is well known to many in the Seattle area. Since 2000, he has worked for Alaska Airlines in a variety of capacities. At present he serves as Senior Vice President for External Relations, a role that includes leading the company's government affairs, political and community outreach, sales, cargo and corporate communications teams. Through the years he has also served as Vice President for Marketing, Cargo, Inflight Services, and Public and Government Affairs. Prior to his work with Alaska Airlines, Joe was employed in several key roles in the aviation industry, including Manager of Government and Industry Affairs for the National Air Transportation Association, and as a pilot and pilot instructor.

Joe holds a B.S. in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and an M.B.A. from the University of Washington. He has enjoyed a variety of civic involvements, including Board membership on the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Washington Business, the University of Washington Communications Advisory Committee, and Angel Flight West. He has deep involvement in local Church activity as well. He and his wife, Jenn, are active parishioners of St. Madeleine Sophie Parish, Bellevue. For several years, they were members at St. Anthony Parish, Renton, where Joe had been a member and president of the Parish Council. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Community Service of Southeast Alaska (Diocese of Juneau) and is currently a member of the Crozier Society of the Archdiocese and the Board of Trustees of the Fulcrum Foundation; in fact, he and Jenn are Chairs of the Fulcrum Foundation "Uplift" Capital Campaign. Joe and Jenn have two children, a son in college and a daughter who just graduated from Kennedy Catholic High School.

The Washington State Catholic Conference is the common voice of the Catholic Bishops of Washington. Its mission is rooted in the Catholic Church's belief in the inviolate dignity of the human person from conception to natural death, our commitment to service to the most vulnerable in society, and our work toward a just and peaceful world. The WSCC represents the Bishops on issues of public policy. Several months ago, Sr. Sharon Park, O.P., Executive Director, announced her decision to retire in 2017. She has been on the staff of the WSCC for more than 30 years and has done an extraordinary job representing the Church's public policy

concerns over the years. It was not an easy task to find her successor, but we believe the Lord has led us to a wonderful choice.

We welcome Joe Sprague to his new role as Executive Director of the WSCC and look forward to working closely with him in the years ahead. His deep faith and commitment to Catholic life, coupled with his impressive background and experience, have prepared him well for this critical role. He will be a blessing to the WSCC and all those served by our advocacy efforts.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "+ J. Peter Sartain".

J. Peter Sartain  
Archbishop of Seattle