



+ March 5, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

April 1, 2020, is Census Day. It is very important for parishes and faith communities of the Archdiocese of Seattle to be involved. Some of the populations we serve are undercounted.

In the next few days, every household will receive an invitation to participate. Upon receiving the invitation, one person from each household should respond in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. The census will be available in various languages. In May of this year, census takers will begin home visits to those who have not replied between March and April. As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, every person living in the United States, children included, must be counted, regardless of their immigration status. Please respond by participating in the census and encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to do the same.

As members of this parish community and communities in which we live and work, each of us has much at stake as we prepare to respond to the 2020 Census. In the context of a culturally diverse Church with varied pastoral needs, we have a responsibility to know our people and to do what we can to ensure that safety net programs for individuals and families living at or below the poverty line in Western Washington are adequately funded.

The federal government distributes more than \$675 billion to state, local, and tribal governments based on census data. This funding is used for new roads, schools, hospitals, the enhancement of important community programs, and much more. By participating, we can actively affect and improve the quality of life in our community. Data from this national count also helps determine government representation decisions. Faith organizations like ours use census data to apply for grants that fund programs and initiatives that are important to our community.

Your responses are confidential. The 2020 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. It is easy, important, and safe. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share an individual's personal information with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

If you have any questions regarding archdiocesan participation or would like to arrange a census event at your parish, please feel free to contact Edwin Ferrera at 206-382-4846 or Deacon Carl Chilo at 206-382-4828.

With every grace and blessing, we remain

In the Heart of Christ,

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

Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle