



March 3, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Yesterday, an appellate court issued its ruling on the case regarding the state Attorney General's subpoena of records under the Charitable Trust Act. I want to take this opportunity to reiterate our original statements about this subpoena and make clear to everyone our position.

We share the same goals as the Attorney General: to prevent abuse and pursue healing for victims. As a way to continue healing for our Church and for victim survivors, we want to give a transparent accounting of the history without jeopardizing the privacy of victim survivors.

We are pleased to see that the court agrees that the subpoena from the Attorney General is indeed overly broad. For context, the original subpoena requested every receipt from all our parishes and schools from January 1, 1940, to the present. We believe this broad request would take months of effort to produce irrelevant documents and waste millions of dollars for us and for taxpayers. The court also appropriately recognized that the Attorney General's subpoena as written "would unconstitutionally infringe the Archdiocese's religious protections."

We remain, as we have from the beginning, open to working with the Attorney General's team to find a more balanced set of records to share — along with a guarantee for the privacy of victim survivors as we do not want the state's investigation to re-traumatize them in any way.

As I did with the former Attorney General, I invite our new Attorney General to meet and discuss how we can best partner to achieve our shared goals. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Etienne".

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