

CARDINAL RITTER BIRTHPLACE FOUNDATION NEWS

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne is a native of Tell City, Indiana. During his time as pastor of *Our Lady of Perpetual Help* parish in New Albany, from 1998 to 2008, he served on the *Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation Board of Directors*.

His valued service and guidance greatly impacted the Board during the time restoration of the Ritter birthplace construction of the Ritter Community Center and Ritter Museum. He officially dedicated the Ritter Community Center on April 19, 2011.

The following story from the *Catholic News Agency* highlights Archbishop Etienne's ecclesiastical rise following his departure from New Albany.

From the Catholic News Agency (CNA)

Archbishop Etienne of Anchorage named coadjutor of Seattle



Bishop Paul D. Etienne. CNA file photo.

Story By [Hannah Brockhaus](#)

Vatican City, Apr 29, 2019 / 04:46 am ([CNA](#)).

Pope Francis Monday appointed Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Anchorage to be coadjutor archbishop of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

As coadjutor, Etienne will assist Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, 66, in the administration of the Archdiocese of Seattle, and will succeed Sartain upon his retirement or death. Coadjutor bishops are often appointed when a bishop is in ill health; Sartain has serious back issues.

"Since 2012, Archbishop Sartain has experienced a succession of spinal issues, leading to three separate surgeries. While his surgeries were successful, Archbishop Sartain's back condition has continued to be painful and to negatively impact his energy and stamina," the Archdiocese of Seattle said in a statement.

"About eighteen months ago, I began praying for the Lord's guidance regarding the possibility of asking the Holy Father to appoint a coadjutor archbishop," Sartain wrote.

"In late September, I wrote Pope Francis and requested the appointment of a coadjutor archbishop, with a view toward retiring much sooner than expected because of my health. Pope Francis graciously responded positively to my request."

Sartain said a date for his retirement would be determined later this year.

Seattle also has two auxiliaries, Bishops Eusebio Elizondo and Daniel H Mueggenborg.

Etienne, 59, served as a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from 1992 until 2009, when he was appointed Bishop of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In 2016, Pope Francis named him to head the Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska.

Etienne [wrote in a blog post](#) April 29 that he is excited and surprised by the announcement of his new appointment, and noted that his time as head of the Anchorage archdiocese the last two and a half years was "too short."

"But I am mindful of a phrase in Sacred Scripture that refers to God's timing, known as 'the fullness of time,'" he wrote. "That time has now come in God's plan for new leadership" in Anchorage.

The archbishop said he has known Archbishop Sartain for many years, and has nothing but "admiration and esteem" for him, and that he has been praying for the people of Seattle and western Washington since receiving the news of his appointment April 13.

He also expressed his gratitude for the "profound faith" of the people of Anchorage: "We now place the future once again, as always, into the hands of a faithful and loving God," he said.

Archbishop Etienne's Rite of Reception in Seattle is scheduled for Friday, June 7.

Etienne, an outdoorsman, grew up as one of six children. He has two brothers who are priests and a sister who is a religious sister.

He graduated from the University of St. Thomas/St. John Vianney College Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, with a degree in business administration before studying at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

After serving as an associate pastor and assistant vocations director in Indianapolis for a period, he returned to Rome to receive his licentiate in spiritual theology.

In the U.S., he later served as vocations director in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, vice-rector of the Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary in Indianapolis, and as a parish priest.

He was appointed Bishop of Cheyenne in 2009. He has served as a metropolitan, the Archbishop of Anchorage, since November 2016.

The Archdiocese of Seattle covers the western part of Washington state, from the Canadian to the Oregon border and from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

It has 173 parishes, missions, and pastoral centers and serves over 579,500 Catholics.

Reflecting on the fact the announcement of his appointment was made on the feast of St. Catherine of Siena, Etienne said he is mindful of her and her "profound love for God the Father, for her Lord, Jesus Christ, for the Holy Father and for the Church."

"For many years, I have seen St. Catherine as a companion and a kindred spirit," he said. "She called the Holy Father 'Sweet Christ on earth.' She was his emissary on various occasions, and she offered many sacrifices for the unity of the Church."

Etienne asked for prayers through St. Catherine's intercession, that his ministry "will be fruitful and conducive to the unity of the Church and the salvation of God's people."

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