



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

February 2009

Dear Father, Pastoral Coordinator & Pastoral Asst. for Administration:

As a pastoral leader, you know that fewer people understand or appreciate the significance and meaning of our teaching on marriage, burial, reconciliation and even Eucharist. In order for our faith to continue being a life-giving presence in the world, it must be fully appropriated by the baptized. That is why I have initiated a long-term process to deepen the sense of Catholic identity among our people.

The local presbyterate is identifying methods for achieving this goal, and one way we can begin to support this effort immediately is by ensuring that more Catholic households receive The Catholic Northwest Progress. Our most recent survey of Catholics who attend Sunday Mass revealed that less than 10 percent receive *any* Catholic reading material in their homes. That means more than 90 percent of Catholic households receive all of their news and information about the church from secular sources.

I am writing today because I need your assistance. If you will supply The Progress with the names and addresses of every household in your parish involved in the RCIA process or presenting a child for baptism, I will send each of these households a special introductory subscription to The Progress absolutely free. All I ask is that you provide me with their names and addresses so I can begin sending them The Progress immediately.

Reclaiming a deeper sense of Catholic identity in the Archdiocese of Seattle will require a multi-pronged effort over many years. Providing award-winning Catholic reading material on the most significant church issues to those who are requesting the sacraments is just one step. But it is an important first step, and The Progress is currently the best means of sharing the good news about our people and parishes. It unites us as a Catholic faith community, and perhaps most important, it tells our stories of faith and shapes the values of our Western Washington faith community.

With gratitude for your consideration, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Alex J. Brunett
Archbishop of Seattle

PS Use the form attached (also available on the Web at www.seattlearch.org/progresspromotion) to identify the households currently participating in RCIA and whenever a family presents a child for baptism in your parish so I can send them a special introductory subscription to The Progress at no charge.

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