



Parish Property to Become Future Playfield

St. Paul Parish and O’Dea High School Take Part in the Catholic Real Estate Initiative

Seattle, Jan 31, 2022 – Today the Archdiocese of Seattle announced that O’Dea High School is in contract to purchase the field at St. Paul Parish in Seattle. This transaction is the latest example of the Catholic Real Estate Initiative coming to life. This vision aims to better serve communities and the mission of the Church by redeveloping underutilized properties for mission-critical uses, which includes strengthening Catholic schools.

“The Archdiocese of Seattle is undergoing pastoral planning, which calls upon each of us to ensure everything we do is focused on the mission of our Church. This includes how we use our buildings and our properties,” said Archbishop Paul D. Etienne. “I am very pleased that this agreement was possible because it strengthens our mission and benefits O’Dea High School, St. Paul Parish and the neighboring community.”

The St. Paul field, which was once used by the former parish elementary school, suffered a landslide in 2017. While the slope was stabilized, the field has been unusable ever since. Meanwhile O’Dea High School, recognized for its faith-based education and strong athletic program, has had difficulties accessing fields in the city of Seattle for many years. O’Dea’s leadership determined that acquiring its own field was in the school’s best interest.

“We currently bus our student-athletes to fields all over the city, even outside the city limits, for practices. While we value our location as an urban campus in the heart of First Hill, space limitations make it difficult to run our athletic program,” said Jim Walker, principal of O’Dea High School. “The St. Paul Parish field provides us with a great solution to the lack of field space in the city. At the same time, it offers a unique opportunity for us to partner with the parish and surrounding neighborhood.”

The first course of action is for O’Dea to restore the property to once again be an athletic playfield for use by the school and the local community. This effort will not only improve the aesthetics of the field for the parish and neighboring community, but also provide St. Paul Parish with a boost of funding that can be used for other mission-critical efforts such as capital building improvements and ministry outreach.

“We want to be good stewards of all the gifts we have. Our parish is currently not able to use the field, nor do we have the resources to restore it properly,” said Father Scott Connolly, pastor at St. Paul, St. Edward, St. Peter and St. George parishes. “We feel blessed to work with O’Dea High School on the project to re-envision our field in support of the mission to strengthen our Catholic schools. Selling the field to them gives them a great solution to their challenges and provides our parish with much-needed funding.”

About O’Dea High School

O’Dea High School is a Catholic high school whose mission is to educate young men and prepare them to be men of character, faith and service. O’Dea provides over 500 young men with a college-

preparatory education in the spirit and tradition of the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education. O’Dea’s diverse, single-gender learning environment lays a rich foundation for the academic and social development of students combining the best traditional teaching practices, with movement and competition in the classroom, to engage learners. These teaching strategies, classrooms designed with innovative educational technology, and the House System provide the young men with an exceptional experience and unparalleled bonds of brotherhood that will last a lifetime. For more information, please visit www.odea.org.

About the Archdiocese of Seattle

The Archdiocese of Seattle encompasses all of Western Washington, stretching from Canada to Oregon and from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. There are 72 Catholic schools, 174 parishes, missions and pastoral centers in the archdiocese, with more than 500 weekly Masses celebrated in eight languages. Archbishop Paul D. Etienne leads the archdiocese with his auxiliary bishop, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit archseattle.org.

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