

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 27, 2019

Statement from the Bishops of the Archdiocese of Seattle about the Sanctity of Life

Seattle, Wash. - Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Robert Fuller and to all those who suffer chronic and or terminal illness. As Catholics, we always strive to be present to those who suffer and to those who are facing death. We have and will continue to accompany them, by providing compassionate care and spiritual counsel. The pastoral, healing, and consolation ministries of the church always take place in the light of faith and hope in the resurrection.

The Associated Press story about Mr. Fuller is of great concern to the Archbishops because it may cause confusion among Catholics and others who share our reverence for human life. The feature story shows a photo of a blessing that Mr. Fuller received after Mass. At the time of this photo, parish leadership was not aware of Mr. Fuller's intentions. That morning, the priest in the photograph was told Mr. Fuller was dying and wanted the blessing of the faith community. It wasn't until later that parish leaders learned of his plans. When these plans were made known, the pastor met with Mr. Fuller to discuss the sacred gift of human life and how we are called to respect and revere that gift as disciples of Jesus.

Catholics believe that all life is a gift from God. Every person has inherent and inalienable dignity because we are made in God's image and likeness. This is why we protect and promote the sanctity of life in all of its stages. Based on this teaching and concern for human life and the common good, the Catholic Church does not support suicide in any form, including medically assisted suicide.

The Archbishops are reviewing the events reported in this story, even though they took place several months ago. They will work to clarify any confusion or misunderstanding, which this article may have generated.

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