

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DIVERSE ORDINATION CLASS: NEW CATHOLIC PRIESTS DIFFER IN AGE, ORIGINS AND LIFE EXPERIENCES

The five men Archbishop J. Peter Sartain will ordain for the Archdiocese of Seattle on Saturday, June 11 at 10 a.m. in St. James Cathedral range in ages from 27 to 59 and two are foreign born. They also represent diverse life experiences. Among the five, one was previously married, another was a successful business professional, one was born in Trinidad and another in Poland. Brief biographies of the new priests follow.

Paul J. Brunet

Age: 59

Home parish: St. Michael in Olympia

Born: Newberry, Mich.

Seminary attended: Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis.

Prior to entering the seminary, Deacon Paul Brunet was previously married and had a 30-year career as a social worker in Washington and Oregon, working with youth and families in crisis.

Brad Hagelin

Age: 27

Home parish: Our Lady of Fatima in Seattle

Born: Seattle

Seminary attended: Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Ill.

A 2002 graduate of Seattle Prep, Deacon Brad Hagelin was a business major at Gonzaga University before discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

Dwight Peter Lewis

Age: 39

Home parish: St. Benedict in Seattle

Born: Trinidad and Tobago

Seminary attended: Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Mo., and Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, N.Y.

Deacon Dwight Lewis was inspired at age 10 by parish priests who supported his family when his mother developed an aggressive form of breast cancer that took her life. The experience stayed with him and he wants to give hope to the desperate as those priests did for his family.

Bryan Ochs**Age:** 29**Home parish:** Church of the Assumption in Bellingham**Born:** Bellingham**Seminary attended:** St. John Seminary in Camarillo, Calif.

A graduate of Western Washington University, Deacon Ochs began seriously discerning his vocation to the priesthood during a college retreat when there was a shortage of priests available to hear confessions.

Michael Wagner**Age:** 41**Home parish:** St. Margaret of Scotland in Seattle**Born:** Poland**Seminary attended:** Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis.

Deacon Michael Wagner worked in finance in Washington, New York, New Jersey, California, Nevada and Colorado. In 2002 he started his own business, but he knew he was being called to something more and entered the seminary.

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