For Immediate Release

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Seattle Archbishop to ordain largest priest class in 38 years

(Seattle) Archbishop Alex J. Brunett will ordain seven priests for the Archdiocese of Seattle at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 10 in St. James Cathedral. The seven-member ordination class is the largest in the Archdiocese since 1968 when 16 men were ordained.

“This is an historic event in the life of our faith community and an occasion for celebration and great joy for all Catholics in Western Washington,” Archbishop Brunett said. “Vocations to the priesthood are an important sign of the Church’s vitality and growth.”

The backgrounds of the men scheduled for ordination follow national vocation trends. Of the seven, two are foreign born. Their average age is 36 and six of the seven have post-graduate degrees.

Almost 80 percent of the men slated for ordination nationally in 2006 completed a college degree before entering the seminary and 30 percent had attained a graduate degree. The average age of the class of 2006 is 37 and almost a third of the men were born outside the United States.

The priests scheduled for ordination in the Archdiocese of Seattle on June 10 include:

Raymond Cleaveland, 35, was born in Portland, Ore. and his family belonged to St. Joseph Parish, Vancouver when he was growing up. He attended the Mundelein seminary near Chicago and holds a licentiate in theology as well as bachelor’s degrees in theology, philosophy and urban planning. Cleaveland served his pastoral internship at St. Joseph Parish, Vancouver where he will celebrate his first Mass on June 11 at noon.

Bryan Dolejsi, 31, was born in Seattle and was a member of St. Stephen the Martyr Parish, Renton while growing up. He attended St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, Calif. and holds a master’s degree in divinity as well as bachelor’s degrees in secondary education, history, philosophy and sacred theology. Father Dolejsi will celebrate his first Mass on June 11 at 2 p.m. in St. Madeleine Sophie Church, Bellevue.

Peter Mactutis, 31, was born in El Paso, Texas and has strong ties to Holy Family Parish, Seattle. He attended Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Ore. and served his pastoral internship at Sacred Heart Parish, Enumclaw. He holds a certificate in philosophy and a master’s degree of divinity. Father Mactutis will celebrate his first Mass June 11 at 11 a.m. at Holy Family Church, Seattle.

Paul Allen Kaech, 42, was born in Chehalis, Wash. and was a member of Holy Family Mission in Frances, Wash. while growing up. He attended St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, Calif. and holds an associate degree from Centralia Community College, a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a master’s degree in divinity. Kaech served his pastoral internship at St. Anthony Parish in Renton and will celebrate his first Mass on June 11 at 10:30 a.m. in Holy Family Mission Church in Frances.

Duc Nguyen, 35, was born in Soc Trang in Vietnam’s Mekong Delta. His home parish is Immaculate Conception in Everett and he served his pastoral internship at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Federal Way. Nguyen attended Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Ore. and holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy as well as master’s degrees in theology and divinity. He will celebrate two Masses on June
11. Father Nguyen will celebrate an English-language Mass at 10 a.m. and a Vietnamese-language Mass at 2:30 p.m. in Immaculate Conception Church, Everett.

Khanh Nguyen, 33, was born in Xuan Loc, Vietnam and his home parish is Holy Spirit in Kent. He attended St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, Calif. and holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and a master’s degree in divinity. Nguyen served his pastoral internship at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Burien and will celebrate two Masses on June 11. Father Nguyen will celebrate an English-language Mass at Holy Spirit Church at 8:30 a.m. and a Vietnamese-language Mass at 4 p.m. in Holy Family Church, Auburn.

Michael Radermacher, 43, was born in Lynnwood and was a member of St. Pius X Parish in Mountlake Terrace. He is a graduate of St. Pius X School and attended St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, Calif. He hold’s a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and a master’s degree in Theology. Father Radermacher will celebrate his first Mass June 11 at 11 a.m. in St. Pius X Church.

In 2005 one man, Father Ed White, was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese of Seattle ordained five new priests in 2004. At the time, it was the largest local ordination class in 23 years.

Official numbers for U.S. ordinations this year will be available in 2007. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat for Vocations estimates that the number of ordained priests will remain steady in 2006. According to the Official Catholic Directory, the number of priestly ordinations in the U.S. last year was 438.

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