Special Mailing

A number of employees and volunteers of the Archdiocese of Portland, parishes, and schools have been victims of tax-identity fraud. Victims' Social Security numbers have been used in fraudulent federal tax returns for the year 2013. Victims learn of the false filings when they receive a notice from the IRS that more than one tax return has been filed using the same Social Security number.

The Archbishop of Seattle, in a letter posted on their Archdiocesan website, states that a number of current and former employees and volunteers within the Archdiocese of Seattle have fallen victim to tax identity fraud. The Archdiocese of Seattle reports that investigators do not know the origin of the problem, nor whether personal information came from a system within the Archdiocese, a system of vendors, or another outside source. The Archdiocese of Seattle has hired a forensic security firm to analyze the situation and is also working with the FBI and IRS to address the issue.

We do not know whether the fax-fraud cases reported by the Archdiocese of Portland employees and volunteers are related to the issues faced by the Archdiocese of Seattle. However, we are in communication with the Archdiocese of Seattle as well as with the IRS working on the case in Seattle to determine if there is any connection.

If you suspect you are a victim of identity theft, please call the IRS' Identity Protection Unit at 800 908 4490, Ext. 245. Please also call Brian Williams, Controller, at 503 233 8311. Brian is compiling information on victims of identity theft.

Information is posted on our Archdiocesan website and updates will be posted there as well.

Along with our efforts to monitor this situation and to remain in communication with the Archdiocese of Seattle as their investigation continues, I offer my prayers to all employees and volunteers of the Church in Western Oregon, especially those who have experienced tax identity fraud.