



## Catholic archbishop visits MacLaren YCF to baptize, confirm youth

By [Sarah Evans](#), OYA Communications  
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Songs and prayer filled the treatment mall at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility on Sept. 1 as two youth celebrated their baptism and confirmation into the Catholic Church with a distinguished guest: Archbishop Alexander Sample, head of the Archdiocese of Portland.

In his first visit to a youth correctional facility, Archbishop Sample welcomed the two young men — Kyle J. and Eddie O. — with words of encouragement that recognized their pasts while looking toward the future.

“There’s always hope. There’s always a future,” he said in his homily. “No matter how badly you mess up, always remember, Christ is there for you.”

With family and friends at his side, Kyle celebrated three sacraments — baptism, first communion, and confirmation — giving a cheer after the archbishop blessed him with baptismal water. Eddie also had the support of family and friends as he was confirmed.

The mass, arranged by volunteers who run a Catholic group for youth at MacLaren, was the archbishop’s second visit to a correctional facility that week (the other visit was to an adult facility). He told those gathered for the mass that he thinks it’s important to reach out and welcome people who are incarcerated.

“God always is about new beginnings,” he said. “You can always change your life.”



*Archbishop Alexander Sample of the Archdiocese of Portland delivers the homily during a recent mass he presided over at MacLaren.*



*Archbishop Sample leads a confirmation ceremony for Eddie O. (right) and Kyle J. (second from right).*



*The archbishop baptizes Kyle J., who also received his first communion and confirmation.*