

Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
4000 St. Joseph Place NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120



Telephone: 505-831-8120  
Fax: 505-831-8101  
Email: [archbishop.office@archdiosf.org](mailto:archbishop.office@archdiosf.org)

## OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you well know, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe entered Chapter 11 Reorganization proceedings on December 3, 2018. I wish to inform you that we have now concluded this process successfully, having agreed on a consensual plan with the claimants' committee and our insurers. From the outset, the Archdiocese has sought to bring some measure of justice and healing to the victims of clergy sexual abuse. To that end, even though the bankruptcy has ended, our archdiocesan commitment to the well-being of those who were abused and to the safety of all children and young persons continues uninterrupted. In addition to the monetary settlement reached, we also agreed to a variety of non-monetary covenants aimed toward the ongoing healing of those who were abused and the protection of our young people. In the months ahead, you will be hearing about these agreements in detail.

With this letter, I wish to express my profound gratitude to you, the parishioners, priests, deacons, lay leaders and religious who have supported our efforts as an archdiocese to bring closure to a sad chapter in our church history and turn the page, looking ahead to an era in which we continue to care for our children and youth first and foremost, with unflagging vigilance and safety policies that are universally enforced. We are one Church, the Body of Christ. It is this one Church that takes responsibility for the actions of those who have broken their sacred vows and done irreparable harm to those who have been abused; it is this one Church that seeks to heal and to protect.

I am particularly grateful to our pastors and the parish steering committee, together with all of you, who sacrificed so much to bring about the healing of victims and Church. To them and to you, my brothers and sisters, I owe a huge debt of gratitude. You have sacrificed savings and land, assets that have been painstakingly acquired over the years by dedicated and generous parishioners for the growth of our parish communities. These sacrifices have been felt deeply and for them I am immensely grateful to you all.

Please keep our ongoing commitment to the safety of our children in your good prayers. This sacred trust is one that we all bear, with God's grace and with firm resolve. I ask our Lord, Jesus Christ, to raise his arms of benediction over this Archdiocese of the Holy Faith and to hold us close to his Sacred Heart. With sentiments of gratitude, I remain

Fraternally yours in the Lord Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Wester".

Most Reverend John C. Wester  
Archbishop of Santa Fe