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**STATEMENT**

**Archbishop John C. Wester's Statement  
On the Retirement of the Entrada de Don Diego de Vargas**

ALBUQUERQUE – Tuesday, July 31, 2018—IMMEDIATE RELEASE— Archbishop John C. Wester issued the following statement regarding the “Retirement of the Entrada de Don Diego de Vargas”.

*I am filled with hope by the decision to retire La Entrada de Don Diego de Vargas.*

*I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the esteemed group of dedicated community leaders representing the All Pueblo Council of Governors (comprised of 20 sovereign Pueblos), Los Caballeros de Vargas, the City of Santa Fe, and Santa Fe Fiesta, Inc., who worked diligently on the negotiation process and am grateful the Archdiocese of Santa Fe was invited to participate.*

*This outstanding group of men and women fortified the future of our community for the greater good through peaceful dialogue.*

*We pray this historic step will allow for healing, and lead to further solidarity with our brothers and sisters of all cultures.*

*I invite you to take a moment to reflect on Saint Francis' Prayer of Peace, our patron saint, as we continue on our journey to eternal life.*

**Peace Prayer of Saint Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.—END