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**NEWS RELEASE**

**Archbishop John C. Wester  
Calls Convocation for Lay Ministers**

Lay Ministry Is a Top Priority for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Saturday, January 11, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

St. John XXIII Catholic Community

4831 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111

ALBUQUERQUE – Thursday, January 9, 2020—IMMEDIATE RELEASE— Archbishop John C. Wester of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe has called all laity engaged in ministry, both professionally and as volunteers, to gather on the weekend of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 11, to celebrate and affirm their call to serve the Church. Stating that lay ministry is one of his top priorities, Archbishop Wester will provide a keynote address. Staff from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Pastoral Ministries Division and other Lay Ecclesial Ministers of the Archdiocese will provide workshops for those attending. The day will conclude with a commissioning of lay ministers and a celebration of the Eucharist with the parish community of St. John XXIII Catholic Community in Albuquerque.

The event is underwritten by a grant from the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and the support of the Annual Catholic Appeal, which makes this event affordable to all. Registrations are still being accepted.

Nine workshops are being offered in both English and Spanish. Themes include: servant leadership, avoiding burn-out, Canon Law, multi-cultural ministry, liturgical ministry, using media in ministry, ministry in times of scandal and division, planning for ministry, and cultural diversity. Materials for assisting parishes in celebrating and commissioning lay ministers in their parishes are being provided by the archdiocese. The materials are based on those available from the National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM).

Archbishop Wester is one of the authors of *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document on Lay Ecclesial Ministry published in 2005. He also serves as the Episcopal Moderator for the National Association for Lay Ministry.

For more information:

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Re: Lay Ministry Convocation Registration  
<https://form.jotform.com/kdavis5430/2020-LEM-Convocation>

Re: National Association for Lay Ministry [www.nalm.org](http://www.nalm.org)--END