

Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
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## OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 23, 2020

My Dear People of God,

We always knew that entering Chapter 11 bankruptcy was not going to be easy; however, for the healing of the victims of clergy sexual abuse and for the healing of our Church we knew it was the right decision to make. Of course, we could never have anticipated a world-wide pandemic that would make our path forward even more difficult. I write today to inform you just how difficult that path has become. Beginning on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Catholic Center will initiate a 20% reduction of offices and/or positions, resulting in an inevitable reduction of staff. It is with a heavy heart that we say "good-bye" to our trusted and appreciated colleagues at the Catholic Center.

It is impossible to put into words just how much we are going to miss our friends with whom we have ministered for so long. Some of those leaving have been with us for well over thirty years. Their dedication, competence and love for the Church stand as a fitting tribute to their legacy. We wish them well in the future and assure them of our never-ending gratitude and promise of prayer. I invite all in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe join me in this expression of gratitude and of prayerful support.

Attached to this letter you will find a summary of those offices and/or positions that have been eliminated and, in some cases, which office will be assuming new responsibilities so that we might continue to serve our parishes, schools and Catholic communities to the best of our ability. Through our Presbyteral Council, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, Curia, Finance Council and other advisors, I will continue to assess the needs of this local Church and marshal the resources at our disposal to serve the faithful of this wonderful archdiocese. Together we will get through this difficult period in our history and with God's grace continue to celebrate Christ's presence in our midst.

In order to plan for our future as the Body of Christ even as we continue to heal the past, I am in the process of commissioning a working group that will reflect the rich diversity of our archdiocese. This task force, together with the councils mentioned above, will reflect all the People of God as they assist me in forging a path forward for our local Church. In the spirit of our archdiocesan patron, I am asking this new working group to respond to Christ's call made so many centuries ago to St. Francis from the San Damiano cross: "Rebuild My Church." Journeying together, with Christ among us and with the assistance of the prayers of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we will move forward with hope and determination as we begin a new chapter in our lives of faith here in the Southwest.

For over 400 years, the Catholic Church has been a beacon of hope and a source of life for countless souls in this portion of the Lord's vineyard. Standing on the shoulders of our ancestors in the faith, we will continue to be, in the words of *Lumen Gentium* (A Light to the Nations), a light of Christ shining brightly in our midst, a light that the darkness cannot extinguish (John 1:5). Please pray for this intention and for our friends who are leaving the Catholic Center but remaining always in our hearts.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John C. Wester". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a small cross symbol.

Most Reverend John C. Wester  
Archbishop of Santa Fe

Attachment

**CATHOLIC CENTER REDUCTIONS**

**AND**

**NEW CONTACT OFFICE**

**EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 4, 2020**

In the grid below, the Division of the office and/or position eliminated is given in the left column. The middle column lists the office and/or position that has been eliminated. The right column lists the new office and/or position you can contact if you require help from the eliminated office/position.

| <b>Division</b>             | <b>Office/Position</b>                               | <b>New Contact Office/Position</b>   |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Office of the Archbishop    | Episcopal Vicar for Doctrine and Life                | Vicar General                        |
| Office of the Archbishop    | Assistant, Office of Worship                         | Worship Office                       |
| Office of the Vicar General | Assistant, Office of Vocations                       | Vicar General                        |
| Office of the Vicar General | Assistant, Ecumenical Office                         | Vicar General                        |
| Office of the Vicar General | Radio Host, Archbishop's Hour                        | Vicar General                        |
| Office of the Chancellor    | Assistant, Victims' Assistance Coordinator           | Victims' Assistance Director         |
| Office of the Chancellor    | Secretary, Human Resources                           | Human Resources                      |
| Office of the Chancellor    | Assistant, Archives                                  | Archives                             |
| Pastoral Ministries         | Director, Ministry Resource Center                   | Pastoral Ministries                  |
| Pastoral Ministries         | Secretary, Pastoral Outreach                         | Pastoral Outreach Director           |
| Pastoral Ministries         | Secretary, Religious Education                       | Religious Education                  |
| Pastoral Ministries         | Secretary, Ministry Resource Center                  | Pastoral Ministries                  |
| Pastoral Ministries         | Campus Ministry                                      | Pastoral Ministries                  |
| Pastoral Ministries         | Youth Office   | Religious Education                  |
| General Services            | Maintenance, IHM Retreat Center                      | IHM Office                           |
| General Services            | Operations Coordinator, IHM Retreat Center           | IHM Office                           |
| General Services            | Maintenance, IHM Retreat Center                      | IHM Office                           |
| General Services            | Director, Madonna Center                             | Catholic Center and General Services |
| General Services            | Secretary, Madonna Center                            | Catholic Center and General Services |
| Communications              | Communication Director and People of God Publication | Communications                       |