



Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Office of Communications/ Social Media

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My dear friends,

A while back in one of my graduate classes, the professor asked us to forecast where we saw ourselves in ten years. I wrote, "...representing an organization with a mission of service to a large community." Using a hackneyed phrase, "never in my wildest dreams," did I envision the Archdiocese of Santa Fe's offer of the positions in which I've been truly blessed to serve these past 24 years.

Under the wonderful leadership and guidance of Archbishop John C. Wester and Archbishop Emeritus Michael J. Sheehan, as a member of their respective Curias, and working alongside the vast number of friends I've made from all over the world, my journey has been the gift of a lifetime. The rapid-paced news cycle, the daunting deadlines and the technological advances have been challenging yet invigorating, and most inspiring has been witnessing people's boundless faith and good works.

I've worked with brilliant teams throughout my ministry to develop curriculum and instructional strategies, assuring every school had a solid technology plan; served as a founding committee member of the ASF website, written grants, we launched Character Counts and golf tournaments, and worked with the Federal Communications Commission and Immaculate Heart Radio to help build the infrastructure for New Mexico Catholic Radio.

I was quite humbled to have been named the first member of the laity to serve as editor of *People of God* magazine. Fortified by Leslie (the other half of the ASF Office of Communications and Social Media) these last 16 years, we have tried to be your mirror - to tell your faith-filled stories and capture the images. We hope our reporting has done them justice. Sharing the joyful as well as heartbreaking news about our faith community such as the several ordinations of our devoted priests and deacons; covering three U.S. papal tours; marching with dedicated and steadfast folks to the State Capitol to defend the sanctity of life; coordinating national and international media for our archdiocesan celebration of 400 years of faith wherein Prince Felipe of Asturias and Princess Letizia (now King and Queen of Spain) were special guests; visiting the Holy Land with my U.S. Catholic Press colleagues to learn first-hand about our sisters' and brothers' daily plight; coordinating the visit of the first pilgrim visitors from Spain to the site at the National Salinas Monument where faithful tell of the appearance of Sor Maria ("the Blue Nun") and historic Mass and celebration with the community of St. Augustine; as well as assisting CHI St. Joseph's Children in the "making of a saint" the Servant of God Sister Blandina Segale, SC; and working daily with our dear clergy, religious, parishioners, friends at the Catholic Center, New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities, and numerous other organizations who truly feed the poor and provide essential life-giving services has been an honor and a true privilege for which I will always be grateful.

Though the 38 year-old *People of God* magazine has been sunset, and the Office of Communications and Social Media will now only consist of one, you are in great hands with Leslie as our office has been seamless for many years. Please continue to share the Good News, reach out and listen to one another. There is still so much more to communicate. Remember YOU are the People of God.

As this chapter in my life is ending (and with our Good Lord's help), I retire to continue to "Dare mighty things."

With love, I remain your sister in Christ,

s/ *Celine*