ARCHBISHOP’S PASTORAL LETTER ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

On January 11, Archbishop Wester released a pastoral letter calling for dialogue on nuclear disarmament called *Living in the Light of Christ’s Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament*. In the letter, Archbishop reflects on his own recent trip to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the history of Catholic social teaching on nuclear weapons, and the history of the development of nuclear weapons in New Mexico. He includes Pope Francis’ statements about the immorality of possessing nuclear weapons, moving the Church from past conditional acceptance of “deterrence” to the moral imperative of abolition. Archbishop points out that the Vatican was the first nation state to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. As Pope Francis declared, “We must never grow weary of working to support the principal international legal instruments of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.” Archbishop states, “It is the duty of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, the birthplace of nuclear weapons, to support that Treaty while working toward universal, verifiable nuclear disarmament.” Archbishop then explores Jesus’ call to nonviolence and offers specific ways we can learn more, dialogue, pray and act to make a more peaceful world. He encourages all to read the document and use the reflection questions and suggestions for action.

We invite you to read, study, pray with and act to stop production of nuclear weapons. Read the letter, *in the Light of Christ’s Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament* (full letter) PDF and Click here for the summary of Archbishop Wester's letter. Please note, it is a legal-sized document so please adjust your printer and paper accordingly.
Hi everyone. I hope that you all had a good and blessed Christmas with family and friends, especially after last year’s hiatus from family events due to the pandemic. Many people have lost loved ones over the past couple of years due to COVID and, of course, other reasons; know that you are in our hearts and prayers.

Mass/Other Restrictions: There are as many opinions about the necessity or foolishness, and the effectiveness, of restrictions as there are people (and believe me, we hear them all!) But we ask parishes and others to simply follow the state guidance, as it receives guidance from CDC and medical professionals. Many people dismiss the pandemic as being overblown, but when you look at statistics, New Mexico has lost at the time of this writing over 6300 people due to COVID—more than 3000 per year. That’s equal to the population of Raton, and we’re not even at the 2-year mark. Some compare it to influenza deaths, but there’s really no comparison; flu and pneumonia deaths usually take 200-300 per year, so COVID losses have been about 10x that. So...be careful. It’s simply charity to try to ensure the safety of all.

COVID & Vaccines: There are more opinions on this than there are people, it seems at time. Many people are wary about taking the vaccine, and often cite some isolated stories about negative effects. However, the vast majority of deaths are in the unvaccinated. After all, there is no absolutely safe, 100% effective vaccine or medicine; even aspirin causes some deaths every year. With the internet, it’s easy to cherry-pick stories which fit preconceptions and conspiracy theories. Yet the whole world and all governments are greatly concerned about COVID, so it’s obviously not simply some nefarious plot by some certain group of people or political party. People also wonder about its connection to abortion, which is good to investigate. However, if Pope Francis, Pope Emeritus Benedict and most bishops have not only received the vaccine but encourage receiving it, it would seem okay for us to do so as well. After all, it’s likely that when we buy gas, groceries, etc., we are more directly supporting abortion than in receiving the vaccine; the vast majority of corporations donate to entities which themselves actively donate/support abortion-providing agencies.

If you’re interested in finding out more about vaccines, their development and a fairly-recent pandemic, a good book is “The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in World History” by John Barry about the Spanish flu in the early 1900s. We see results of that pandemic in almost every older cemetery’s headstones—a clustering of deaths around 1916-1918. One particularly interesting fact is that each person who acquires a virus himself produces thousands of variants because of the virus’ imperfect DNA replication process within our cells, but only rarely does a variant have properties to make it more virulent. COVID apparently mutates very frequently, and that’s why it may be around for a while. This is also why there’s a different regular flu vaccine every year—each targets the most prevalent variants. I don’t know, but I wouldn’t be surprised it we’ll need to get a new COVID vaccine every year or so like we do with regular influenza.

Archdiocesan Bankruptcy: The bankruptcy proceedings slog on. The Archdiocese and the claimants have long agreed on a settlement amount, but insurance companies still have to commit to what they will contribute, and final bankruptcy settlement depends on the total being accepted by the claimants; this is standard in these types of proceedings. Mediation continues.

People often ask about progress, but it’s hard to say...or to tell. There are more twists and turns in the process than in a bowl of spaghetti, and about as many issues and possible paths forward.

The second property auction is tentatively scheduled for the January 31 – February 7; it has taken a lot of time because of the small size and number of properties, and lack of clarity in the deeds of the past. That’s in the hands of the auction company; here’s their LINK if you’re interested in following, or even placing a bid.

Women’s Ordination: Now, many people were concerned about the well-publicized “ordination” of Ms. Anne Tropeano on October 15; it was big issue in the media, and may become an issue in the Church’s current synodal process.

The Church does not accept ordination of women as valid for a number of reasons, but most especially because the Church—following the example of Jesus choosing His apostles—sees itself as authorized to ordain only men; popes (even Pope Francis) have noted that. Because of the model Jesus gave, the Church does not see itself authorized to ordain women. People often forget the fact that, as God, Jesus could have chosen anyone He wanted for priests/apostles and directed history toward that. Priestesses were not uncommon in other cultures/religions during Jesus’ time, yet He chose only men. Even Pope Francis is reiterating the Church’s teaching on this, revising canon law to state: “Both a person who attempts to confer a sacred order on a woman, and the woman who attempts to receive the sacred order, incur a laete sententiae excommunication reserved to the Apostolic See; a cleric, moreover, may be punished by dismissal from the clerical state.” For a more complete review of the Church’s belief, you can check out John Paul II’s Ordinatio Sacerdotalis, or Pope Paul VI’s Inter Insigniores.

This practice is by NO means a disparagement of women, who do so very much good in the Church; it is rather simply a recognition of the model of the Church set by Jesus Himself. After all, the greatest saint in the Church—Mary—is a woman, and yet even she was not given the task of priesthood. In fact, Pope John Paul II in his Mulieris Dignitatem strongly praised women and their roles in the Church. Yet, not all roles are for all persons; for instance, men are not given the incomparable gift of motherhood. So, it isn’t a question of “better” or “worse”, but simply different roles and vocations different roles given by God in following Christ. We remember St. Paul: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord...To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

After all, the beauty of orchestral harmony is not by one instrument alone, but the different instruments adding their own unique and essential contributions. Well, that’s about all the major updates for now; we’ll try to keep you informed about any big developments. So...

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

(Number 6:24-26)
MASS IN SPANISH IS BROADCAST EVERY SUNDAY ON CHANNEL 50 (MY50TV-KASY)

In an effort to offer Sunday Mass in Spanish each week, not only during the time when parishioners are unable to attend Sunday Mass in their parishes due to the COVID 19 contingency, the Hispanic Ministry and Liturgy offices broadcast the Mass in Spanish on television each week. These Masses are broadcast every Sunday at 7:00am on My50TV (KASY) - channel 50 on regular television (check with your television signal provider for other channels). Please share this information with anyone who may benefit from this broadcast.

Recordings of these masses can also be viewed from 4:30pm on Saturday (pre-Sunday mass) via the Internet by visiting the following link: http://hispanicministryasf.org/tv-and-radio-programs/video-collection/

For any questions regarding the transmission of the Mass in Spanish, please call the Hispanic Ministry Office at 505-831-8147.

Holy Mass can also be heard on the radio every Sunday on KNMM 1150 AM and 102.1 FM in Albuquerque at 7:00am and KNMX 540 AM in Las Vegas, NM at 8:00am.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION RETREAT “NOS VAMOS A CASAR” (Presented in Spanish)

The Archdiocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry, in collaboration with the Office of Family Life, invite all Spanish speaking couples who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Marriage to participate in a marriage preparation retreat “Nos Vamos a Casar”. This retreat is one of the approved programs in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

Now that the capacity of the churches and the celebration of the sacraments is gradually expanding, there has been a great demand for Marriage Preparation Retreats. The next Retreats will take place on April 23-24, 2022 and July 23-24, 2022. (Normally these retreats are held only four times during the year.)

Couples interested in participating in an upcoming marriage preparation retreat are asked to contact the Hispanic Ministry Office directly for the most recent information (see box).

QUINCEAÑERA FAMILY RETREATS (Presented in Spanish with Bilingual Material Available)

Now that parishes can increase Mass capacity, there is growing interest in scheduling Quinceañera celebrations for young people. Celebrating a Quinceañera Mass offers the opportunity as a family to learn and reflect on this cultural and religious celebration. For this reason, the Offices of Faith Formation and Hispanic Ministry will soon offer family Quinceañera retreats via the Zoom platform:

- **Saturday, April 30, 2022** from 8:45am-2:30pm. Space is limited and the registration deadline is Wednesday, April 20, 2022.
- **Saturday, July 9, 2022** from 8:45am-2:30pm. Space is limited and the registration deadline is Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

Please register by calling Della at 505-831-8142 or email dmontano@archdiocesf.org. For updated information on these retreats, please call the Office of Hispanic Ministry at 505-831-8147.

THE ECUMENICAL CORNER

February 2022

On January 25th, members of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe completed the annual Week of Christian Unity. The theme this year, “We saw the star in the east, and we came to worship Him” (Matthew 2:2), was selected by the Middle East Conference of Churches in Lebanon. It gave Christians around the globe an opportunity to learn from and pray with Orthodox Christians worldwide.

In New Mexico, the Week was celebrated with an “online” pilgrimage of eight days. Each participant (pilgrim) came up with their own walk and carried with them personal intentions as well as those of their fellow pilgrims. Prayers were carried for their sick and dying; the faith of their family members; those lonely, homeless and refugees; the unity of our faith communities and nation; and many more.

Each day, there were scripture readings and video reflections to help maintain the spirit of prayer and intentional walking. The opening and closing ceremonies brought pilgrims together, sharing faith experiences along with prayer and song. Relationships were made with Christians of many denominations and a deep sense of unity as sisters and brothers in Christ was inspired. “Father, that they may be one...so that the world may believe” (John 17:21)

A debt of gratitude goes to members of the Archdiocese who made this Pilgrimage for Unity possible: Archbishop Wester, Msgr. Voorhies, Deacon Andy Dimas (and his wife), Lang Ha Phan (and daughter Sylvie), Eugene Corrales, James Winter, and Jim Gilroy (and his grandchildren).

In the words of Pope Francis, “Unity happens when we walk together.” (Videos of the 2022 Week’s devotions are available online at nmnpilgrimage.org)
FEB. 8 IS THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA, PATRONESS OF SUDAN AND ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese woman, born in 1869, who, as a child, was kidnapped, sold and resold into slavery. The pain of being ripped apart from her family, and the perpetual beatings she endured caused her to forget the name given to her by her parents. Her captors gave her the name Bakhita, which means “lucky one.” Bakhita represents more than 20.9 million people trafficked in the world today. Let us reflect on how we can stand in solidarity with trafficked persons, who, like Bakhita, have the courage to believe in a world free of slavery and injustice. (Education for Justice, www.educationforjustice.org)

Jesus, we adore you and we bless you, because, by your example of justice, you call us to walk with St. Bakhita and our trafficked brothers and sisters across the world to end the scourge of human trafficking that plagues our world.

February 8 is also the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Trafficking is modern day slavery. 25% of all victims are children age 17 or younger, and include victims of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Learn more about the reality of trafficking and what you can do to stop trafficking: https://www.usccb.org/stopslavery and watch this brief video: https://youtu.be/gOcheWiLkXk.

SAVE THE DATE: NEXT WEBINAR ON HEALING RACISM

MARCH 21, 2022

Join Us for our sixth webinar in the series based on the Pastoral Letter Open Wide Our Hearts, exploring healing racism in our Church and Community.

The webinar will be Spirituality of Gospel Music on Monday, March 21, 2022, 6pm-8pm with Damaris Thillet. Watch our Facebook page for updates @ASFSJandRL.

ACTION ALERTS

- Afghanistan is on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe. This winter, 23 million people face food insecurity and possible famine. As prices skyrocket, families cannot access cash to pay for food, medicine or other basic necessities. The U.S. government must address the economic drivers of this crisis to prevent further suffering and save lives. Urge the current Administration to facilitate banking access for Afghans and find new ways to support the country’s critical services like hospitals, schools and utilities. The United States must remain committed to the people of Afghanistan and act now as millions of lives remain in jeopardy. Raise your voice now to help our Afghan sisters and brothers!

- Urge Congress and the Administration to support the equitable global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines have provided the world with relief and hope and are essential to ending the pandemic. The U.S. must continue to lead in pushing for addi-
tional global vaccine donations as well as investments in supplies, health systems and manufacturing capacity. A critical component of success will include addressing vaccine hesitancy and securing uptake. Remind our elected officials that we have the tools to save millions of lives and that we need their leadership to ensure our global family is protected! Act Now.

- Ask Congress to support poor families and protect our common home. Policies are needed to address "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." Ask Congress to invest in care for creation and to extend the expanded Child Tax Credit, ensuring it remain fully refundable so that it is available to the lowest income families and that it continues to include mixed-status families. We encourage you to add your own personal story about why climate investments matter to you, and/or how 2021’s expanded Child Tax Credit has helped your family or your community. Take Action Now.

WALKING IN FAITH WITH OTHERS

Life is as beautiful as it is complicated. More often than not, difficult situations can cause angst and overwhelming feelings of stress this is when faith comes to the rescue of those in need. Saint Augustine said it best when he said, “Faith is to believe what you do not see: the reward of faith is to see what you believe.” Faith fills us with the firm conviction of believing in God’s promises in spite of anything we may be going through in life because “we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Cor 5:7) Life is too difficult to walk alone, it is crucial that we always walk alongside a loved one.

Here are three things you can do to walk with others in their journey of faith:
1. Pray – Pray for the person you’re walking with and pray for yourself
2. Listen – Everyone’s faith experience is different. Listen intently.
3. Lead by example – Faith is visible to others by our actions

Please contact Yvette Galaviz to discuss educational opportunities such as presenting to your youth, young adult, adult formation or confirmation groups (in English or Spanish) on what Catholic Social Teaching says about poverty and how you can help. See box for contact information.

PREPARE FOR LENT: STILL TIME TO ORDER YOUR RICE BOWLS BEFORE ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022!

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. CRS Rice Bowl shares stories of hope from CRS’ work around the world. These stories are examples of how your Lenten alms are helping communities find solutions to problems like hunger and malnutrition. Take a virtual journey with us to Guatemala, Bangladesh and Rwanda! Don’t forget to try the meatless recipes each Friday during Lent. Call our office (see box) to place your Rice Bowl Order!

CRS Rice Bowl provides many resources for daily reflection throughout Lent. Consider these suggestions in your family’s Lenten plan:
- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar each day to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey.
- Use the CRS Rice Bowl recipes to prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world.
- Visit crsricebowl.org to watch videos of the people and communities you support through your Lenten gifts to CRS Rice Bowl.

BE A FAITHFUL CITIZEN: 30-DAY NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE SESSION CONTINUES THROUGH FEB. 17

Allen Sanchez, Director of the New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops, presents the concerns of the three Catholic Bishops of New Mexico at our New Mexico legislature in Santa Fe. The purpose of the Conference is to promote the greater good of humankind by addressing issues of moral concern and social justice as seen through the eyes of the Catholic faith. The Conference informs and educates its members and the public about those issues and encourages all to advocate for those issues and the betterment of humanity.

This year is the 30-day session, began January 18 and is ending February 17, and is limited to dealing with budgetary matters, bills on the “Governor’s call,” and bills vetoed in previous sessions by the Governor. The 2022 Legislative agenda of the New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops is as follows: Life, being the greatest gift from God, is top priority, as is concern for the poor. NMCCCB is supporting HB 157, the “Baby Box Bill, which would provide funding for “baby boxes” in every New Mexico county where parents can leave their newborns anonymously. It is also supporting HB 132, which caps short term loan interest rates at 36%.

Go to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe website for more legislative updates from Allen. Sign up to receive the latest information from the NM Conference of Catholic Bishops and the 2022 legislative session by calling the Office 505-831-8167.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH FROM POPE FRANCIS

“By giving us His Son, God offers us a fraternity based on true love, making it possible for me to encounter others who are different, feeling compassion for their sufferings, drawing near and caring for them even though they do not belong to my family, ethnic group or religion.”

- Pope Francis, Twitter on January 4, 2022

CIVILIZE IT – A BETTER KIND OF POLITICS

Building #ABetterKindOfPolitics requires that we encounter our neighbors and enter into a dialogue that seeks the truth across perspectives. Join this movement of bridge-builders today: civilizeit.org #CivilizeIt
MONTHLY REFLECTION:
LISTENING - a Vital Hope as we contribute to the world-wide Synod on Synodality

“I would like to encourage everyone to see [the Church and] society not as a competition between strangers but above all as a home or a family, where the door is always open and where everyone feels welcome. ... For this to happen, we must first listen. Communicating means sharing, and sharing demands listening and acceptance. Listening is much more than simply hearing. Hearing is about receiving information, while listening is about communication, and calls for closeness. ... Listening is never easy. Many times it is easier to play deaf. Listening means paying attention, wanting to understand, to value, to respect and to ponder what the other person says. It involves a sort of martyrdom or self-sacrifice, as we try to imitate Moses before the burning bush: we have to remove our sandals when standing on the “holy ground” of our encounter with the one who speaks to me (cf. Ex 3:5). Knowing how to listen is an immense grace, it is a gift which we need to ask for and then make every effort to practice.”

MARRIAGE SUPPORT
Retrouvaille, a line for troubled marriages. Are you considering separation or divorce? We believe Retrouvaille can help. Retrouvaille will teach you a method to re-establish communication.

This three phase program consists of a weekend experience, a series of 7 follow-up sessions over a three-month period, and a monthly meeting for lifelong support. For more information or to locate a virtual weekend, please call 505-890-3495 in Albuquerque or 1-800-470-2230. You can also find us on the Web at www.HelpOurMarriage.org

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING
Please visit our website for information on classes available through the family life office.

Office of Pastoral Planning & Evangelization
Michelle Montez
Executive Director PMD
505-831-8221
mmontez@archdiosf.org

Denise Frias
Executive Assistant PMD
505-831-8165
dfrias@archdiosf.org

SYNOD 2021-2023
Synod Listening Sessions Dates Now Due
The dates of your Synodal Prayer Listening Sessions are now due. If you have already planned or carried out your synodal listening sessions, please submit those dates to Denise at dfrias@archdiosf.org for publication.

Facilitator Materials
Please visit www.archdiosf.org/synod to access the facilitator training videos, listening process, resources, etc.

Office of Family Life
Yvette Duran
Coordinator
505-831-8117
yduran@archdiosf.org

PRE-CANA CLASSES
The Pre-Cana of Santa Fe will be having Pre-Cana classes at Saint Anne Parish in Santa Fe. To register or more information call (505) 690-7451.
- April 28, 29 and 30, 2022
- July 28, 29, and 30, 2022
- October 27, 28, and 29, 2022

For questions, please contact the Family Life office at 505-831-8117 or yduran@archdiosf.org

MARRIAGE PREPARATION
Weekends for the Engaged. Couples must attend the whole weekend. The cost is $85.00 per couple. Please visit www.familylifemnm.org to register for one of the events. Dates are as follows for 2022:
- June 10-12, 2022
- August 26-28, 2022
- November 11-13, 2022

For questions, please contact the Family Life office (see box).

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS
The following dates have been scheduled for 2022:
- March 4-6, 2022
- June 3-5, 2022
- September 23-25, 2022

To register visit abqsfee.org

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP
Seasons of Hope is centered on Jesus Christ and grounded in the healing wisdom, traditions, and practices of the Catholic Church. The small faith-sharing group typically meets for six consecutive weeks. Anyone who is mourning the death of a loved one is welcome to attend.

Participants are asked to bring a Bible (we also have bibles available) and each receives a journal to guide them through the sessions. Registration is requested so materials can be prepared.

Our next season is starting soon! Contact Viola at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish to register or for more information! 505-836-5011.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
After serving faithfully since 2009 as our Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Susan Murphy offered her resignation, effective December 31, 2021. Ms. Murphy was a dedicated educator whose many years of experience served the Archdiocese of Santa Fe well these past twelve years. The Pastoral Ministry offices are greatly appreciative of our time working together.

Welcome Donna Illerbrun
We would like to welcome Ms. Donna Illerbrun who has accepted the position of Superintendent of Schools in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Ms. Illerbrun is no stranger to the Archdiocese, having served as a middle school teacher of mathematics at St. Therese Catholic School in Albuquerque. In 2007 she became the Vice Principal of that school and in 2009 she became the Principal. Before her time in New Mexico, she has served in a variety of educational positions in Florida and in Belgium. Donna also participated in the deacon formation program of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe with her husband, Michael, who serves at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Albuquerque.

(excerpts taken from Archbishop Wester’s letter dated December 31, 2021)

Upcoming Faith Formation Class

Bringing Prayer to Life and Life to Prayer -- Sr. Paula Gallagher, IHM -- Mondays: February 7, 14, 21, 2022 -- 1:00pm to 3:00pm via Zoom: For information and to register: https://form.jotform.com/220095849068161
The Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Worship

Changed & Renewed: Living in Joyful Hope

A session for all church ministers (Music Ministers, Lectors, Ministers of Holy Communion, Hospitality Ministers, etc.)

Thursday, February 24, 2022 Zoom Session 7:00 p.m. (MT) 8:30 p.m.

As church ministers, many of us have been emotionally, and spiritually affected by the COVID 19 Pandemic. This session will address the ongoing challenges faced by church ministers and a way to see this as an opportunity for renewal in ministry and move forward with hope.

This will be a free virtual session via ZOOM offered in English and Spanish simultaneously. We hope that you and other parish ministers can participate and benefit from this session.

Presenters will be

Andrea Ramos  
Associate Director for Music in the Diocese of Austin, TX.

Peter Kolar  
Editor for Spanish and Bilingual Resources at GIA Publications.

Register to receive the Zoom link at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAcemorzgrGdwyQjS1CRoB6kOHZHWWcRjgt

For any additional questions please call: (505)831-8128 or email us at: dthillet@archdiosf.org and GGabaldon@archdiosf.org

Help Us Conserve Resources and Trees!
If you have an email address we can send you the PMD Express, via e-mail, which will save printing materials. Simply send a message to cbecerra@archdiosf.org

We wish to thank all who are contributing to the Annual Catholic Appeal, making the ministries of the Pastoral Ministries Division possible.