A LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD FOR NEW MEXICO FIRE RELIEF AND SUPPORT
by Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop
May 4, 2022

My Dear People of God,

We are all deeply concerned for our fellow citizens who are dealing with the terrible fires in our state. We are also concerned for the brave men and women who are fighting the fires and the first responders who are doing all they can to save lives and property. I know that all our parishes are praying hard that the fires will be extinguished and that all concerned will be safe. Our Office of Worship has issued a communiqué through our Vicar General to all parishes, giving them resources for the celebration of the Eucharist in times of calamity and distress. I know you all join me in praying for everyone affected by these devastating fires. You will find a prayer at the end of this letter that you can use at home or in other gatherings as we ask God to protect our brothers and sisters in the path of the fires.

As always, our priests are there to help those in need, especially when people are suffering such loss as in the current fire situation in New Mexico. I have encouraged our reverend pastors to take up a collection to assist those who have lost their homes and other property in the fires. You are also invited to send further donations to our Catholic Charities office at 2010 Bridge Boulevard SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105.

Thank you all for your prayers, support and financial gifts. These are signs of our care and concern for our fellow citizens. They make Christ’s presence more deeply felt in the lives of those who are suffering.

Yours in the Peace of the Risen Christ,

+ John C. Wester
Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe

Prayer to St. Florian, Patron Saint of Firefighters
Loving God, Father of us all and giver of every good gift, we turn to you in our need as our fellow citizens suffer from the wild-fires raging in our beautiful state of New Mexico.

We ask you to protect and comfort those who have been forced to evacuate, those who have lost a home or other property and all those who are in harm’s way.

Guide and guard the brave men and women who are fighting the fires and all of our civic leaders who are joining in this valiant effort.

Give us favorable weather in this struggle and send us those graces we need to come together as one family to face the current crisis together.

May generous hearts and hands reach out to those who are forced from home and may we all care for one another as you care for us.

We make our prayer through Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen. St. Florian, pray for us.
START A CONVERSATION ABOUT ARCHBISHOP WESTER’S PASTORAL LETTER, LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST’S PEACE: A CONVERSATION TOWARD 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 Wester reflects on his 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 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.

Or, if you want a hard copy, Archdiocese of Santa Fe has partnered with Pax Christi, USA to print copies of Archbishop Wester’s new Pastoral Letter. Order one or more full color hard copies by clicking here, then take time to read, pray and reflect on this powerful pastoral letter on nuclear disarmament with others. Learn how to use the pastoral for outreach to Catholic leaders, parishes, and schools, and its value as a tool for organizing for nuclear abolition. Booklets are available for $5.00 plus s/h. Discounts are available: 10% for 10-99 copies; 30% for 100+ copies. Use this 52-page full-color booklet for individual or group study. Comes with study questions, suggested readings, and more.

REGISTER NOW FOR A FREE VIRTUAL STUDY CIRCLE ON ARCHBISHOP WESTER’S PASTORAL LETTER, LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST’S PEACE: A CONVERSATION TOWARD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT!

Pax Christi, USA is sponsoring a virtual study group on Archbishop Wester’s Pastoral Letter. We invite you to participate in a 3-session virtual study circle over Zoom on Archbishop Wester’s pastoral letter to better understand the nuclear weapons threat and how we can individually and communally work for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Each study group session will include suggestions for outreach and action.

When:
- Tues., May 17, 8-9 PM EDT (6-7 PM MDT)
- Tues., May 24, 8-9 PM EDT (6-7 PM MDT)
- Tues., May 31, 8-9 PM EDT (6-7 PM MDT)

The study circle will be facilitated by members of the Pax Christi USA Nuclear Disarmament Working Group. You will be requested to read part of the pastoral letter in preparation for each session. Register at this link for a special study circle on the pastoral letter, beginning Tuesday, May 17!

JOIN THESE WEBINARS/PRESENTATIONS EXPLORING ARCHBISHOP WESTER’S PASTORAL LETTER

Groups across the US have taken up Archbishop Wester’s challenge to engage in dialogue and conversation about the urgency of nuclear disarmament. Please join the conversations! We will post more as they become available.

- **Saturday, July 2, 12 Noon (MDT)** “Living in the Light of Christ’s Peace: My New Pastoral Letter on Nuclear Disarmament” with Archbishop Wester for the Beatiudes Center. Register here: [www.beatitudescenter.org](http://www.beatitudescenter.org)

- **Thursday, July 21, JustFaith Ministries free Acting for Justice Webinar**, Archbishop Wester is presenter: Thursday, July 21, 5pm-6:30 MDT, more information to come.
- **Friday, August 5**, Archbishop Wester as Keynote to the Pax Christi USA 50th anniversary National Conference in Washington, DC. Both virtual and in-person registration options. Register here: [https://paxchristiusa.org/2021/10/14/save-the-date-pax-christi-usa-celebrates-50-years-at-the-national-conference/](https://paxchristiusa.org/2021/10/14/save-the-date-pax-christi-usa-celebrates-50-years-at-the-national-conference/)
- **Contact**: Johnny Zokovitch, [izokovitch@paxchristiusa.org](mailto:izokovitch@paxchristiusa.org)

ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE PASTOR ASSIGNMENTS

Archbishop John C. Wester has made the following assignments:

- **Effective Monday, April 4, 2022** - Reverend Chike Uba has been appointed as Rector of Santo Niño Regional Catholic School, this is in addition to his current assignment as Parish Administrator of St. Anthony of Padua in Pecos.
- **Effective Tuesday, April 19, 2022** - Reverend Jose Herrera, previously Parish Administrator of San Juan Bautista in Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, has been appointed as Parish Administrator of San Isidro in Santa Fe and its missions.
- **Effective Tuesday, April 19, 2022** - Reverend Nathan Lopez, previously Parochial Vicar of San Juan Bautista in Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, has been appointed Pastor of San Juan Bautista in Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo.
- **Effective Tuesday, April 19, 2022** - Very Reverend John Cannon, previously Pastor of San Isidro in Santa Fe, has been appointed Rector of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe and Pastor of Cristo Rey in Taos. This is in addition to his current assignment as Dean of the Santa Fe Deanery.
- **Effective Monday, April 25, 2022** - Reverend Felice Peter Mgendwa, previously Parochial Vicar of Estancia Valley Catholic Parish in Moriarty, has been appointed as Parish Administrator of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Taos and its missions.

Please keep all the clergy who are beginning new assignments in your prayers.
“We need the crucified and risen Lord so that we can believe in the victory of love, and hope for reconciliation. Today, more than ever, we need him to stand in our midst and repeat to us: “Peace be with you!”

Only he can do it. Today, he alone has the right to speak to us of peace. Jesus alone, for he bears wounds... our wounds. His wounds are indeed ours, for two reasons. They are ours because we inflicted them upon him by our sins, by our hardness of heart, by our fratricidal hatred. They are also ours because he bore them for our sake; he did not cancel them from his glorified body; he chose to keep them forever. They are the indelible seal of his love for us, a perennial act of intercession, so that the heavenly Father, in seeing them, will have mercy upon us and upon the whole world. The wounds on the body of the risen Jesus are the sign of the battle he fought and won for us, won with the weapons of love, so that we might have peace and remain in peace.

As we contemplate those glorious wounds, our incredulous eyes open wide; our hardened hearts break open and we welcome the Easter message: “Peace be with you!”

Brothers and sisters, let us allow the peace of Christ to enter our lives, our homes, our countries!”


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

PRE-CANADA CLASSES
The Pre-Canada of Santa Fe will be having classes at Saint Anne Parish in Santa Fe. To register or more information call (505) 690-7451.
- 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.familylifefnm.org to register for one of the events. Dates are as follows for 2022:
- August 19-21, 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 Engage Encounter Weekends in 2022:
- September 23-25, 2022
To register visit abqsjee.org

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

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.

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION WEBSITE: asoff.org
Office of Faith Formation Facebook: https://facebook.com/ASFFaithFormation/

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY
The members of the Office of Faith Formation remain grateful to Catholic Extension for the grant that allows us to dedicate resources in support of Middle School Ministry. So many parish catechists and catechetical leaders have had the privilege of working with and being supported in their ministry by Reina Goode who faithfully served as Middle School Ministry Coordinator through the beginning of the current Catechetical Year. We are most grateful for her service to the People of God of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

The Archdiocese will continue to focus on this important ministry and beginning in April 2022, Elvia Becerra has graciously accepted the responsibility as Coordinator for Middle School Ministry. We are appreciative to have such an experienced and energizing member join our Faith Formation team and look forward to working with her in this new capacity. Elvia will begin reaching out to parish leaders to see how we can best support this vital ministry. Should you wish to reach out to Elvia, her contact information is noted above (see box).

MARRIAGE SUPPORT
Another marriage saving weekend is coming soon.

Marriage Help - Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. Retrouvaille will teach you a method to re-establish communication. This three phase proogram consists of a weekend experience, a series of 7 follow-up sessions over a three-month period, and a monthly meeting for lifelong support.

This program can help you too. For confidential information about the May 19-22, 2022 program call 505-890-3495 or visit helpourmarriage.com
SYNOD 2021 2023
Preliminary results of the ASF Synod Listening Process:
A million thanks to all Facilitators and Pastors who have already submitted their results from the Synod Listening Sessions conducted in their parishes and to those who gathered as a ministry group/religious to discuss, record and offer their insights!

To date, there have been 200+ Listening Sessions conducted throughout the Archdiocese, involving over 3,500 participants, and representing 70+ parishes, ministry groups and Archdiocesan Consultative bodies. At this point in this process, insights have been submitted from adults, youth and children, as well as ecumenical partners, representatives of other faiths and those no longer practicing the Catholic Faith. All insights are now being collated for review by the Archdiocesan Synod Committee, whose task will be to help organize the input, articulate results, and prepare the Archdiocesan synthesis that Archbishop Wester will submit to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on behalf of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. The deadline for submission to the USCCB is June 30, 2022.

Please note: If you were a facilitator of the process in your parish and have not yet submitted your results, please contact the Executive Office of the Pastoral Ministries Division as soon as possible. There is now only a short window of time left for submission. Please submit your results to dfrias@archdiosf.org.

The ASF Synod Survey will remain posted for input for those who would like to offer their insights using this tool. The Survey takes just a few minutes to complete and is available in Spanish and English. Information and insights can be submitted anonymously, but the survey can only be taken once. Our Synod Survey will no longer be accessible after June 1, 2022. To access the ASF Synodal survey use the QR Code, or visit the link below for more helpful Synod information: https://archdiosf.org/synod

ASF SPEAKER’S APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THOSE WHO RESIDE OUTSIDE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE
As parishes cautiously begin to open and plan activities for their parishioners, many ministry groups and parishes are seeking to invite Speakers and Musicians for presentations and other events. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe has a simple, but important process for vetting speakers and/or musician(s) invited by a parish or ministry groups to offer a presentation, conduct a retreat, perform a concert, etc.

Speakers who are laity from outside the Archdiocese of Santa Fe are asked to:
1. Submit a Speaker Application form. Here is the link for the speaker application: Archdiocese of Santa Fe Speaker and Presenter Application Form.
2. Request and submit a letter from their Bishop/Religious Superior addressed to Archbishop John C. Wester, 4000 St. Joseph’s Place NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. The letter must specifically state who has invited the Speaker or musician(s), and where and when they will be speaking. The letter must attest to the person’s suitability to present, the orthodoxy of their teaching, and that there are no credible accusations of misconduct against this individual. The letter must carry the seal of the Diocese or religious order.
3. Proof of Virtus (child protection) training must be submitted and be current (taken within the last five years.) Usually, the certificate that is offered upon completion of the training will suffice.
4. Proof of clear criminal background check. The person who has been invited can usually obtain this proof through the Office of Safe Environment/Child Protection from their Diocese.
5. Individuals seeking Speaker’s Approval should submit their information as soon as possible. It can take up to a month to obtain approval.

If the individual seeking Speaker’s Approval is a member of the Clergy:
1. A letter of good standing from the bishop, vicar general, or vicar for clergy must be submitted to Archbishop John C. Wester at the address above.

If the individual is an international speaker (a person coming from another country):
1. The speaker would need to present an in-country background check as well as a U.S. background check, in addition to proof of VIRTUS compliance. Please note that these items will need to be paid for by the host. Please contact Annette Klimka, Victim’s assistance coordinator, aklimka@archdiosf.org with any inquiries. In-country investigations for international speakers can take a few weeks, so the sooner the host begins the process, the better.
2. The invited Speaker will also need to present a letter of good standing to archbishop Wester from their bishop/vicar general per the speaker policy.

All documents can be sent to Denise Frias dfrias@archdiosf.org if submitted electronically. Hard copies can be mailed directly to the archbishop’s office at the address cited above.

Once documents are submitted, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Speakers Committee reviews the file and makes a recommendation to the Vicar General, who represents the archbishop in these matters. The Vicar General will then notify the committee of his decision and the Executive Office of the Pastoral Ministries Division will contact the invited individual and/or the host to inform them of their Approved Speakers status.
JOIN US FOR NALM’S ANNUAL CONFERENCE!
This year’s National Association for Lay Ministry Annual Conference starts with a prayer service and opening remarks from Sr. Nathalie Becquart, followed by three sessions where we will hear from 3 different professionals at each session, and have time for questions and answers, and small group discussions.
The conference will end with closing remarks from NALM's Episcopal Moderator, Archbishop John C. Wester and prayer.
The conference is all virtual, using the Whova app.
We invite all you who are in lay ministry to gather, network, talk, listen, and learn - we want to see you there - virtually! Register today, and invite others to this conference, all are welcome!

Cost: $79 for non-members and Basic Members
$49 for Standard and Sustaining Members
Click [here](#) to register!

**ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES**
The St. Kateri Tekakwitha Scholarship submissions deadline has now passed. Scholarship recipients will be notified of updates by the end of the month. For more information, please contact Charla Becerra at the Native American Ministry Office (see box).

**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**
The next Advisory Board Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 8, 2022** at 10:00am at the Catholic Center in Albuquerque. For any questions, please contact the Native American Ministry Office (see box).

**RECONSTITUTING THE NAM ADVISORY BOARD**
The Native American Ministry Office is currently searching for eligible candidates to join the Native American Ministry Advisory Board. We are looking for people who are active in Native American ministry and representative of the Native American population within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. If interested, please contact the NAM Office (see box).

**2022 NALM (VIRTUAL) CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**
All times are Eastern Time Zone

- **Tuesday, May 31, 2022**
  - 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm: Orientation to Whova (optional)
  - 3:15 pm - 5:00 pm: Prayer Service and Opening Keynote Speaker: Becoming a Synodal Church: A Path of Conversion
- **Wednesday, June 1, 2022**
  - 11:00 am - 12:15 pm: General Session 1: Creating a Culture of Listening
  - 12:15 pm - 12:45 pm: Exhibitor Hall Open
  - 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm: Small Group Session 1
  - 1:45 pm - 3:45 pm: General Session 2: Creating a Culture of Discernment
  - 3:45 pm - 4:15 pm: Exhibitor Hall Open
  - 4:15 pm - 5:15 pm: Small Group Session 2
- **Thursday, June 2, 2022**
  - 10:45 am - 12:00 pm: General Session 3: Creating a Culture of Participation
  - 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm: Exhibitor Hall Open
  - 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm: Small Group Session 3
  - 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm: Closing Prayer Service
Social Justice & Respect Life

Anne Avellone  
Director  
505-831-8167  
aavellone@archdiosf.org

Maria Garcia  
Secretary  
505-831-8205  
mgarcia@archdiosf.org

Yvette Galaviz  
CCHD Intern  
505-831-8232  
ygalaviz@archdiosf.org

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN RICE BOWL THIS LENT!

We prayed, fasted and gave alms — and now we celebrate Easter joy! Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl challenges us as we encounter our Risen Lord to bring the hope of Resurrection to a world in need. Don’t forget you can still “empty” your Rice Bowls online by clicking here or going to: https://archdiocesesantafegiving.org/virtual-crs-rice-bowl.

You can also mail a check made out to Archdiocese of Santa Fe and be sure to put “CRS Rice Bowl” in memo line. Then mail to Archdiocese of Santa Fe Social Justice and Respect Life Office, 4000 St. Joseph Pl. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. Many thanks for your support!

SOcial Action Summer Institute on the spirituality of Justice july 20-22, 2022

This year’s Social Action Summer Institute (SASI) is taking place July 20-22, 2022 in-person at St. John’s University in Collegeville, MN. This year’s theme, The Spirituality of Justice, will emphasize the need to re-ground ourselves in why we do the work that we do. This theme is needed now, more than ever, especially after coming off two difficult years. Watch for more information here: https://www.catholicroundtable.org/events/social-action-summer-institute-sasi.

Celebrate Laudato Si’ Week from May 22-29, 2022

Laudato Si’ Week 2022, to be held May 22-29. The theme for this year is “Journeying Together.” This annual celebration has become a way for all Catholics to unite and rejoice in the progress we’ve made in bringing Laudato Si’ to life and to commit ourselves to further prayer and action for our common home. Learn more about Laudato Si’ Week 2022 here: https://laudatosiweek.org.

DID YOU MISS MSGR. RAY EAST’S PRESENTATION IN THE SERIES ON HEALING RACISM? YOU CAN VIEW HIS UPLIFTING MESSAGE HERE!

On Monday, April 25, the AACC Ad Hoc Committee on Racism hosted the seventh webinar in the series exploring the Bishop’s Pastoral on racism, Open Wide Our Hearts, The Enduring Call to Love. Msgr. Ray East of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, a long-time supporter of our Archdiocesan African American ministry and inspirational speaker, explored how to heal racism and how the African American Catholic Community shines a light for all in today’s world. If you want to catch some Easter joy, be sure to listen to Msgr. Ray East! Click here to view the recording of his uplifting message of hope: https://youtu.be/wpm98NaRaQ4.

Save the Date: The Archdiocese of Santa Fe African American Catholic Community (AACC) Mass Sunday, June 26, 2022 – 12 Noon

Please join the Archdiocese of Santa Fe African American Catholic Community for Mass on Sunday, June 26, 2022, 12 noon at St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Catholic Church, 5901 St. Joseph’s Dr. NW, Albuquerque. Covid-19 Safety Standards will be followed. Masks must be worn by all present.

Action Alert

Join Catholics across the country who are urging their Senators to support $555 billion in climate solutions that will lower national greenhouse gas emissions and help communities build resilience against the impacts of climate change. Send a message to your Senators using this link: https://catholicclimatecovenant.salsalabs.org/encountercampaignactionalert-a?fbclid=IwAR3km_BB1-1k0HLlZ-NKeP_LoAjKBmNSMskD3DpX1bV66jh74fa5yhMB6gJ.

Urge Congress to address the impacts and root causes of climate change by providing robust funding for international assistance programs in the fiscal year 2023 budget and investing in the Green Climate Fund. Take action now.

Pry for dobbS


Heroic Mothers

The Catholic Church is compassionate toward mothers who choose life despite challenging circumstances such as poverty and singleness. Motherhood for such women can mean social isolation. They may not have the loving support of family and friends, or other resources they need to successfully raise a healthy family. Thankfully, our parishes are full of life-loving people who can welcome and befriend moms who are pregnant or parenting young children, provide them support and help guide them toward self-sufficiency. During the month of May, in celebration of mothers, in what way can you, your friends, family and parish bless a pregnant or parenting mother in need? Proverbs 31:25: “She is clothed with strength and dignity, and laughs at the days to come.”

QUOTE OF THE MONTH from Pope Francis

“Pour out upon us your Holy Spirit and grant us a new heart capable of hearing the pleas of our brothers and sisters who have lost the warmth of their homes and homeland. Grant that we may give them hope through our humanitarian deeds. Amen.”

- Pope Francis, Twitter on April 3, 2022.
Catholic Relief Services

CRS ASSISTS WITH UKRAINE: WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

A humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Ukraine after Russia invaded the country from three sides in the early hours of Thursday, February 24. Cities across the country have been bombed, including the capital city of Kyiv and the eastern city of Kharkiv. More than 5 million people have now fled the country for safety in neighboring countries like Poland, Romania, and Moldova and an estimated 7.1 million are displaced within Ukraine. More than half of Ukraine's children have been displaced and over 1600 civilian casualties have been reported. This displacement crisis is the fastest exodus in Europe since World War II.

Conflict is not new to Ukraine. The country previously fought with Russia in 2014, which forced 1.3 million people from their homes and claimed 14,000 lives. Throughout this time, Caritas Ukraine, with support from CRS, has been providing emergency relief and recovery.

Since the start of the conflict, CRS partners Caritas Ukraine (of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church) and Caritas Spes (of the Roman Catholic Church) have supported more than 750,000 people. This includes providing food for more than 550,000 people; distributing more than 105,000 hygiene kits; and medicine and medical support for nearly 45,000 people. They have transformed churches into child-friendly spaces, provided food at train stations, and provided transportation to borders. Recent assessments have identified new needs for long-term shelter for displaced families as well as a greater focus on counseling and mental health support, including for staff.

CRS is continuing to provide support to Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Spes on:

- Food assistance; field kitchens that provide hot lunches and snacks
- Reception services at Caritas offices, train stations and other locations for displaced people with clothing, information, referrals, food, water, hygiene items, and counseling services.
- Transportation of displaced families to friends, families, and local social services.
- Evacuation centers providing shelter, food, and counseling services for displaced families. These centers will include support to address emotional care including case management and child-friendly spaces. Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Spes provide temporary shelter to approximately 1,400 people a day.
- CRS staff have also been working with neighboring Caritas partners to transport supplies into Ukraine through Poland. Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Spes have received more than 850 tons of humanitarian cargo, of which 450 tons have been sent into conflict zones. No other organization - national or international - is responding at the level of our Caritas partners inside Ukraine. For more information, go to www.crs.org

JOIN A CRS CHAPTER OR CLUB!

Learn more about local communities making a global difference.

You have the power to end hunger, violence, forced displacement and poverty. You have the power to support our global family.

You have the power to make a difference. Learn more about starting or joining a CRS Chapter or Club and become part of a community of changemakers working to transform our world, and about taking action with CRS: https://bit.ly/CRS-May2022 or https://bit.ly/CRS-June2022

CELEBRATE ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER DAY AND WORLD LABOR DAY ON MAY 1!

“May Day” has long been dedicated as a special day for labor and working people. The feast of St. Joseph the Worker was established by Pope Pius XII in 1955 to give all workers a model and a protector. Catholic social teaching supports the dignity of work and the rights of workers. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected: the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative. Respecting these rights promotes an economy that protects human life, defends human rights, and advances the well-being of all. The Catholic bishops of the United States have long held that the most effective way to build a just economy is to make decent work at decent wages available for all those capable of working. When the economy fails to generate sufficient jobs, there is a moral obligation to protect the life and dignity of unemployed and underemployed workers and their families. Pope Francis said, “I address a strong appeal from my heart that the dignity and safety of the worker always be protected” (Pope Francis, Regina Caeli, 4/28/13). Learn more about Catholic teaching on workers’ rights by visiting http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/index.cfm#primers.

MEANING OF TRUE FREEDOM

As Americans, this Memorial Day we will remember those who died in the service of our country. But as Catholic Americans, we should also reflect on the meaning of true freedom and thank God for the Church which proclaims the way to the fullness of that freedom. We are taught by Catholic social teaching that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and our responsibilities to one another, to our families, and to the larger society are met.

With that in mind, I honor those who paid the ultimate price for the freedom that I have enjoyed as an American. However, I believe that some today have trivialized the meaning of freedom or distorted it beyond recognition. True freedom is much deeper than being able to do what we want. Freedom directs us toward truth and choosing the truth perfects our exercise of freedom.

Human beings, by virtue of their reason and free will, are unique among all other created things in that they can freely choose to act in ways that are not in accord with their nature, that is, they can turn away from God. However, turning away from God is not true freedom, it is an abuse of freedom. Instead of freeing us; it enslaves us. The Church teaches us that to understand freedom we need to consider both our nature and the very purpose of our humanity. We know that we are more than the material world, for which we have the capacity to appreciate and give thanks. This Memorial Day Catholics rightly honor our fallen brothers and sisters, those who have died so that we may continue to choose freedom. This honor should be given along with remembering our Church, who has defended the dignity and freedom of the human person.

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 more contact information.
Share your voice to shape early childhood services in New Mexico!

TAKE THE SURVEY TODAY!
Share your voice to shape early childhood services in New Mexico! Parents, guardians, and caregivers of children five years old or younger, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! This annual confidential survey is designed to assess the access to, satisfaction with and knowledge of services and programs for families throughout New Mexico with children aged 0-5. This survey is a collaboration between the New Mexico Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD) and Project ECHO at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center to support the families in your community to voice their experiences, needs and concerns about early childhood programs and services. Take the confidential survey by May 30, 2022 http://unm.la/survey22

Meditation on Creation
Find a comfortable position/place for this meditation.

Breathe: Take three deep breaths, filling your lungs thoroughly, holding your breath momentarily and exhaling through your mouth.

Heart: Quiet your inner self – embracing the gift of life with each breath and heartbeat.

Let yourself reflect on these words of St. Hildegard of Bingen: “Human beings are the thinking heart, called to be co-creators with God in shaping the world.”

Express your gratitude for the wonders of creation's rhythm of interconnection.

Reflect: How do you feel that this most beautiful place, Earth, is threatened by destruction due to our own actions and neglect?

Ponder the call to be co-creators and not dominators and oppressors of this web of life for now and future generations.

Resolution: Come in touch with the passion/energy you feel to protect this most beautiful place, Earth. In what way(s) might you help sustain Earth's life?

(Adapted and used with permission by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Written by Sister Barbara Sheehan and Providence Associate Gene Majewski.)

Pray: God of all creation, your goodness and glory shine forth through everything you have made. Through the light of faith, help us to see this world, our common home, not as a resource to dominate and exploit, but as a gift to be cherished by all generations. Prompted by your Spirit, we ask this in the name of Jesus, through whom all creation was made. Amen.

(Prayer from Catholic Charities)
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 July 23-24, 2022 and October 29-30, 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).

QUINCEÑERA 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, October 22, 2022 from 8:45am-2:30pm. Space is limited and the registration deadline is Wednesday, October 12, 2022.

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

Office of Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs
Rev. Msgr. Bennett J. Voorhies
Director
505-298-7554
bvoorhies@archdiosf.org

THE ECUMENICAL CORNER
May 2022

The “listening sessions” of the Catholic Church’s local synod have been completed. Now the Archdiocese committee will read, summarize, and prepare their submission to the United States Bishop’s Conference who in turn will send them to Rome for the 2023 Synod of Bishops worldwide.

We hope that all of you have had a chance to participate. For members of the Ecumenical Commission, it was fascinating to listen to the voices of sisters and brothers from other Christian churches as well other faith leaders throughout New Mexico. Seeing ourselves, the Catholic community, from an outside perspective can be both positive and challenging.

One positive perspective of those responding was the respect they have for the large historical sweep and rich faith culture of the Catholic community – for all the “smells and bells” of liturgical seasons, and all the holy celebrations filled with music, art, and Eucharistic services.

Many specifically praised the New Mexico traditions, such as Las Posadas, Los Hermanos, and the pilgrimages to Chimayo and Tome Hill. A challenge expressed by a number was how difficult it’s been to engage with their local Catholic church to address the needs of the broader community or to participate in communal prayer services. In the end, however, all participants stated that they were grateful to be asked to share their experiences and reflections on how we all, as people of faith, can “better journey together” in the future.

If you would like more information on this recent Synodal ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, please contact the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs – Msgr. Voorhies, Director at bvoorhies@archdiosf.org or Jim Gilroy, Chair at gilroy@unm.edu
DEAF CIRCLE TRAINING
The ASF Office of Pastoral Outreach Deaf Circle is hosting a weekly zoom meeting designed to assist interpreters who are currently interpreting the Roman Catholic Mass. This weekly training/meeting is designed for interpreters of all levels. We are fortunate to have a deaf priest from the Diocese of Milwaukee (Fr. Christopher Klusman) who will assist with the spiritual guidance involved in the training. We will study the readings together for each of the Sunday Liturgies and alternate interpreting using linguistic tactics and peer reasoning. Time will be allotted for discussion questions related to that interpreter’s sign choice as we analyze the grammatical structure presented. This type of training/meeting is structured for continued individual growth related to interpreting in a Roman Catholic setting.

Please share this information with anyone who is interested in participating. You will receive the zoom access link once registered. The meeting will be hosted by Charles Griego, ASL Deaf Ministry Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. If you have any questions you can reach him at charlesgriego@gmail.com or (505) 429-1068.

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

Office of Pastoral Outreach
Deacon Robert Vigil
Director
505-831-8229
rvigil@archdiosf.org

THRESHOLDS PRAYER GROUP
Join us every Wednesday at 7:30PM as we pray the rosary. We dedicate the rosary to those in Prison, their family members, and victims/survivors. Please share the link with Mentees, Alumni, and anyone you feel will be interested. Join through Zoom - https://zoom.us/j/92681353732?pwd=eUc4QXFuNUtZa1E1eHNFbGNWdUBrZz09.

COLLECTING ITEMS FOR FIRE VICTIMS IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO
The Pastoral Outreach Office is collecting non-perishable food, drinks, water, shampoo, soap, laundry detergent, lotion, etc., and pet food to assist the fire victims in Northern New Mexico. The donations will be dropped off to Northern NM weekly. Please drop off your donations at the Catholic Center (4000 St. Josephs Pl NW Albuquerque, NM 87120) between the hours of 8:30am – 11:00am and/or 1pm – 4pm.

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