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An Open Letter to Sexual Abuse Claimants within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe

ALBUQUERQUE – Thursday, March 16, 2023– IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, has issued the following open letter of apology to the sexual abuse claimants within the Archdiocese of Santa

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 16, 2023

To Sexual Abuse Claimants within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe,

With this open letter, I wish to express my profound regret and sorrow over the tragic and inexcusable harm done to you by clergy sexual abuse. As Archbishop of Santa Fe, I apologize to each of you and to all those who have been harmed by sexual abuse perpetrated by Roman Catholic Clergy in this archdiocese. The Archdiocese takes responsibility for the abuse. I am ashamed of what happened to you and even more so that it happened within the auspices of the Catholic Church. There are no words that can convey how sorry I am and how committed this archdiocese is to keep children and young people safe.

I also wish to affirm that none of you are to blame for the abuse perpetrated upon you. Sadly, it is not unusual for those victimized by clergy sexual abuse to carry guilt for the abuse they received. This guilt is often encouraged by the perpetrator and is entirely unfounded. You were completely innocent and did nothing to deserve, encourage or sustain the hideous crime of sexual abuse of a minor.

It is my fervent hope that the Chapter 11 process that is concluding now will bring you all some measure of justice. I pray that this moment will be yet another step in the healing process and that you will find the peace and well-being that is your God-given right.

With admiration for your courage, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Wester".

Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe