

# Archbishop's Letter: Abide In Christ

## Archbishop John C. Wester, June/July 2015, *People of God*

---

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As I made my final preparations to move to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, I would like to thank you most sincerely for the good wishes and prayers that you have sent my way in the past few weeks. I was truly humbled by your warm and gracious welcome when I was with you a few weeks ago. Although it is never easy to leave a place that has been home these past eight years, your kindness and enthusiastic faith give me comfort and deepen my excitement about my new ministry in your midst.

I have had the opportunity to visit the archdiocese several times in the past and have been very impressed with the rich cultures of New Mexico, the vibrant faith, the beauty of the land and the warmth of the people. I realize that I have a lot to learn and I look forward to listening to you and learning from you in the years ahead. Archbishop Sheehan has been very kind and welcoming to me and he has been lavish in his praise of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. There is a real joy in the people of the archdiocese and a contagious energy about celebrating and spreading the Catholic faith. I had the pleasure of joining you in 2010 for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christianity in the Southwest. This same vital spirit was evident then as now and it excites me to be joining you as your Shepherd. God has certainly blessed you and now through you I am blessed.

Please pray for me during these days of transition. I am asking the Lord to guide me and to assist me in supporting all the good work taking place in the archdiocese. I have observed already priests, deacons, religious and lay leaders who give generously of themselves in service to the church. I have heard of the rich diversity in our parishes, schools and other Catholic communities that reflect the long tradition of our faith in the archdiocese. I am impressed with the authentic and sincere work that has been done to provide a safe environment for children and the vulnerable, recognizing that we must be rigorously vigilant in protecting our precious young people. I am eager to learn about the native cultures and traditions that inspire and enliven our Catholic faith, giving the Gospel message new vitality and vigor. Most of all, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to make new friends as I journey with you on the path the Lord has marked out for us together.

Please keep Archbishop Sheehan in your good prayers as well as he begins this new chapter in his life. His love, concern and affection for all of you are most evident and I count myself fortunate to succeed such a dedicated shepherd and compassionate leader. Again, please remember me in your prayers as I assure you of mine. These are very exciting and full days for us and I ask the Lord of all mercy and love to raise his arms of benediction over us now and always.

Sincerely yours in the Lord