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STATEMENT
A Call to Prayer for our Newly Elected Officials
By Archbishop John C. Wester

ALBUQUERQUE – Monday, November 9, 2020 –Archbishop John C. Wester issues a call to prayer for our newly elected officials.

With thanks to God that our country has now concluded peaceful elections, I join my prayers with those of the faithful in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe as I congratulate and pray for President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr., Vice President-elect Kamala D. Harris, and the newly elected men and women on the federal, state, county, and local level. The task ahead for these public servants is daunting during these days of pandemic, social unrest, economic hardship, and polarization. Therefore, following St. Paul's lead in his letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:1-2), it is more important than ever that we offer "supplications, prayers, petitions and thanksgivings" for our new civic leaders. We also remember all those who ran for office, thanking them for their devotion to service in the public square.

I ask that we pray for each other and for our fellow citizens that we will all cooperate with our new leaders as they seek to heal divisions, break down the walls constructed by prejudice and poverty, and forge a path from ideological separatism to genuine unity amid diversity. This is an historical moment in which we are called and challenged to live up to our country's name by becoming more and more a republic called the "United States."

On a personal note, I am proud that for the second time in history a Roman Catholic has been elected to the highest office in the land. The Catholic faith has been an important part of President-elect Biden's life, comforting him amid personal tragedy and guiding him as he serves the common good. I pray that his faith will continue to illumine his path as he shoulders the immense burdens of the presidency.

Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe