



## Archdiocese of Santa Fe

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### STATEMENT

## Pro-Life Statement from Archbishop John C. Wester On Our Call to Speak for the Voiceless

ALBUQUERQUE – Thursday, January 28, 2021–IMMEDIATE RELEASE-- Archbishop John C. Wester’s statement on our call to speak for the voiceless:

Following Jesus’s example to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves, it is clear we are called to be a voice for the voiceless, to be on the side of the poor and vulnerable. Children who are not yet born do not have the ability to speak for themselves. They rely on their mothers to sustain their fragile lives before they are born, and on the care and love of parents and family once they are born. As people of conscience and good will, whatever our political party, we must take seriously the responsibility to speak on behalf of the unborn and protect their fragile lives.

I recognize the complexity that unplanned pregnancy presents. However, the solution to those complexities is not to take a life. Pope Francis reminds us of this when he asks, “Is it fair to eliminate a human life in order to solve a problem? The answer to which is: no... It is a problem of eliminating a human life. Period” (05/28/19). The solution is never to end a life. The solution is to welcome life and to support and sustain it, as is only fitting for we are made in the very image and likeness of God.

To pregnant mothers in difficult situations, we are with you, and stand ready to support you regardless of the challenges you face in your pregnancy. I assure you that we advocate for the things that support life and our common good throughout the lifespan of your child: access to adequate and affordable health care, especially pre-natal care; access to affordable food and housing; dignified work and adequate wages to help support a family; access to and investment in early childhood intervention; adequate funding for education; and clean air and water to help sustain life for all. With these essential social supports, all children will be given a chance to grow in wisdom, age and grace.

To all law makers, I urge you to open your hearts and look squarely at the human dignity of the developing child. I am deeply concerned that if we don’t protect the youngest, most vulnerable, who will? If we do not, I fear we will become more and more like a ‘throw-away’ society that Pope Francis warns against. I earnestly ask you to put party politics aside and to hear the needs of all our children. I ask you to work to create supports to welcome life, to surmount the challenges pregnant women may face, and to protect conscience rights of our health care providers who do not want to be forced to participate in abortions. Let’s work together to find solutions that help the most vulnerable to thrive. -- END