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**STATEMENT**  
**Archbishop John C. Wester on the**  
**Sanctity of Human Life and Recent Developments**  
**in the New Mexico Legislature**

ALBUQUERQUE – Friday, February 12, 2021–IMMEDIATE RELEASE-- Archbishop John C. Wester’s statement on the sanctity of human life and recent developments in the New Mexico Legislature:

For centuries, people of faith have been reaching out to God through Psalm 139 in which the psalmist declares, “You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!” It was in defense of this “wonderfully made” human life that I joined my voice with so many others several weeks ago when I issued a statement in defense of innocent human life in the womb, seeking to be a “voice for the voiceless.”

Sadly, these past few days our voices seem to have fallen on deaf ears in our New Mexico legislature. But this does not silence our voices – it only makes them louder and stronger. I urge my fellow New Mexicans not to allow human laws that contradict God’s law to lull us into moral complacency. Such laws have a veneer of moral rectitude but they are doomed to immediate shame and eventual defeat. Even something as horrendous as slavery was once legal in our country but right eventually won out. The Catholic Church stands squarely and unequivocally for human life, defending all life but particularly caring for those who are vulnerable, such as those in the womb. Make no mistake: the Catholic Church champions the primacy of conscience but one’s conscience must be properly formed. For a Catholic to say that abortion is ethical reflects an erroneous conscience that has not properly considered sacred tradition, divine revelation and foundational ethical imperatives.

I believe that the laws attacking human life, which are being enacted during the current legislative session, will not stand the test of time. However, their passage does increase the urgency with which I join my voice once again with all those others who seek to defend human life from conception to natural death. It is the Word of God that created life and it is the Word of God that sustains that life. I pray that our voices will echo God’s Word and reach the hearts of those who must make the difficult decision to protect and sustain human life in the womb or not. To all such couples, especially to all pregnant women, I assure you that you are not alone. The Catholic Church, for one, stands with you and is ready to accompany you when you make the courageous decision to bring a new life into the world. It is not a perfect world, but it is a world that God saw was good. When you sustain and defend human life, you are praising God who is wonderful in His works.

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