

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
4000 St. Joseph Place NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120



Telephone: 505-831-8120
Fax: 505-831-8101
Email: archbishop.office@archdiosf.org

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 12, 2021
Year of Saint Joseph

My dear brother priests, dear religious, deacons and their wives, lay leaders and brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you all know, our archdiocese has been engaged in the Chapter 11 Reorganization process for some time now. This arduous undertaking is beginning to pick up the pace as both sides seek to bring healing to the victims and all those impacted by the scourge of clergy sexual abuse. With a heightened sense of urgency, and a renewed commitment to bring Christ's healing to our local Church, I write to ask for your prayers that our efforts will be successful. In particular, I ask each parish and Catholic institution to come together in prayer for this intention by seeking the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Joseph and Servant of God Sister Blandina Segale, SC.

Our Lady of Guadalupe shows favor to those who, like St. Juan Diego, are humble and in great need. The victims of sexual abuse have been terribly hurt and stand in need of healing. So does our local Church, which has been shaken to its core by the sins of some of those who were ordained to serve and protect the innocent. Our Lady of Guadalupe will join her prayers to ours in asking her Son to illumine the path of healing that we have undertaken.

St. Joseph was declared the universal patron of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870. God entrusted to him the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her divinely conceived Son, Jesus the Lord. Thus, the pope declared him to be the Church's patron as he continues to watch over and protect the Church, the Body of Christ.

Servant of God Blandina Segale, SC, worked tirelessly here in New Mexico to serve the needs of all but especially the youth. She did this through the building of schools, orphanages and hospitals. She was an indefatigable advocate for youth and their well-being. She will be a strong intercessor for us as we seek healing today for the youth who were so wounded years ago.

Ms. Damaris Thillet has prepared materials to assist you and your parish or institution in gathering in prayer for this urgent archdiocesan intention. You may decide to use one of the prayers she is distributing at the conclusion of the Prayer of the Faithful at each Mass. You can also distribute these prayers for individual recitation or for prayer groups. Families can join in this prayer around the dinner table or at the end of the day. I encourage us all to be creative and persistent in praying for a successful outcome to our bankruptcy proceedings.

Please know that I join each of you in prayer for this intention. I ask our Lord to continue to guide us through this Lenten Season into a joyous Easter that celebrates the new life we seek where children are kept safe and Christ's healing restores his Church for which he died and rose on the third day.

With my promise of prayer and sentiments of gratitude to you all, I remain

Your brother in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'John C. Wester'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe