



**ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE**  
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**Press Release**

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ALBUQUERQUE – Monday, April 27, 2015-- IMMEDIATE RELEASE--Pope Francis has appointed Most Rev. John C. Wester, Bishop of Salt Lake City, as the 12<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Santa Fe. He succeeds Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan, whose resignation from the pastoral care of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe upon reaching the age limit has been accepted by the Holy Father.

A press conference with Archbishop-Elect Wester will be held today, Monday, April 27, 2:00 p.m. at the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Catholic Center (4000 St. Joseph Pl NW, Albuquerque, NM). The Installation Mass for Archbishop-Elect Wester will be at 2:00pm on Thursday, June 4, at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe. Until the installation Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan continues to serve as Archbishop of Santa Fe.

Archbishop-Elect Wester was ordained a Priest on May 15, 1976 for his native Archdiocese of San Francisco. He has earned degrees from Saint Joseph College, Saint Patrick College, Saint Patrick Seminary, the University of San Francisco and Holy Names College. He was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco and appointed to serve as Vicar General in 1998. From 2005-2006 he was Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. He was appointed as Bishop of Salt Lake City on January 8, 2007. His Episcopal motto is “*Abide in Christ.*”

Archbishop-Elect Wester chairs the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) Committee on Communications. He is a member of the USCCB Committee on Catholic Education and the USCCB Catholic Education Foundation Advisory Board. He also serves as consultant for three USCCB Committees which are: 1) Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, 2) Laity, Marriage, Family Life & Youth, and 3) Migration. He has worked towards immigration reform on a local, national, and international level.

His National Memberships include being a Board Member of Catholic Relief Services; on the Board of Trustees of the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio; Episcopal Advisor for the National Association of Catholic Chaplains; Episcopal Moderator of the National Association for Lay Ministers; as well as a member of the Board of Trustee for Saint Patrick Seminary and University in Menlo Park, California.

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan and the Priests, Deacons, Religious and Laity of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe welcome Archbishop-Elect John C. Wester with open arms and loving hearts.--END

