



**ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE  
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

4000 Saint Joseph Place NW  
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**Statement**

**Archbishop John C. Wester on the  
Violent Death of Miss Victoria Martens  
August 26, 2016**

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ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Friday, August 26, 2016 - IMMEDIATE RELEASE— *We Catholics of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe join our thoughts and prayers with our fellow citizens as we mourn the tragic and violent death of Victoria Martens.*

*It is difficult, if not impossible, for us to imagine such a horrific and brutal murder. This is especially true when the victim is a sweet and innocent child. More than any of us, children reflect the face of God.*

*This heinous crime is an affront not only to humanity, but to the very image of God in our midst. We know from scripture that Jesus wept over Jerusalem, and there is no doubt He is weeping now. News of little Victoria's death has all of us reeling in grief and disgust. While there is nothing we can do now to save Victoria's precious life, we can work diligently to provide a safe and healthy environment for our children.*

*More than ever, I am looking forward to our upcoming symposium on child well-being in New Mexico, Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the St. Pius X High School gym in Albuquerque. Those who wish to attend the symposium will be given an opportunity to do something positive in the name of Victoria Martens and all the innocent children whose welfare is of paramount importance to those of us charged with their care.*

*I ask for continued prayers for Victoria that she may rest in peace and that all children may be protected from evil and the terrible violence that is pervading our society. --END*