



## **Archdiocese of Santa Fe**

### **Office of Communications/ Social Media**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

## **Archbishop John C. Wester to Ordain Two Seminarians to the Transitional Diaconate and One Seminarian to the Priesthood**

### **Transitional Diaconate Ordination Mass**

**St. Thomas Aquinas**  
1502 Sara Rd NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124  
Tuesday, May 26, 2020  
10:30 a.m.

### **Priesthood Ordination Mass**

**Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe**  
131 Cathedral Pl., Santa Fe, NM 87504  
Saturday, May 30, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

ALBUQUERQUE – Sunday, May 24, 2020—IMMEDIATE RELEASE-- Archbishop John C. Wester will ordain two seminarians to the transitional diaconate in the Roman Catholic Church, Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas in Rio Rancho, and one seminarian to the priesthood on Saturday, May 30, 2020 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe. The invitation-only Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate will be live-streamed at <https://youtu.be/8YpngHWCYF4> . The invitation-only Ordination to the Priesthood will be live-streamed at <https://youtu.be/PptrMMYEI8l>

The seminarians to be ordained to the transitional diaconate are Anthony Ezeaputa and Jordan Sánchez.

The diocesan deacons will be referred to as “Rev. Mr.” These men will be given the authority to baptize, witness marriages and preach the Gospel. They will make the promise of obedience to Archbishop John C. Wester and to his successors and will be welcomed by their brother deacons during the rite. Upon ordination to the diaconate, they will be under Archbishop Wester’s and his successor’s authority.

Rev. Mr. Joseph Baltz will be ordained a Roman Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe on Saturday, May 30, 2020.

## **Brief Biographies provided by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Vocations**

**Rev. Mr. Joseph Baltz** was born in Albuquerque on March 30, 1993. His parents raised him in Albuquerque until after high-school when he left for seminary. During that time, his home parish was St. Thomas Aquinas under the guardianship of Msgr. Douglas Raun. He first went to Holy Trinity Seminary at the University of Dallas to get his philosophy degree and then went to Mt. Angel Seminary in Oregon and received his theology degree. During his summers he was assigned to St. Thomas Aquinas, Estancia Valley Catholic Parish, Sacred Heart in Española, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Peña Blanca, and St. Anne's in Tucumcari. He was also sent to Costa Rica for Spanish immersion one summer. He looks forward to ordination and would appreciate prayers, specifically that Jesus' words, "That My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" may find fertile ground in his soul.

**Anthony Obinna Ezeaputa** was born on February 20, 1985 and was baptized and raised Roman Catholic by his parents, Joseph and Veronica, in Onitsha Anambra State Nigeria. He has five sisters and two brothers. St. Charles Borromeo in Albuquerque is his home parish, and he has served Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Española and St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church in Albuquerque. He is thankful to the schools he attended: St. Dominic Savio Seminary Akpu Anambra State Nigeria, St. John Bosco Seminary Isuaniocha Anambra State Nigeria, Dominican Institute Ibadan Oyo State Nigeria (Bachelors of Arts in Philosophy), Pontificia Facoltà Teologica Teresianum Rome Italy (Sacred Theology Baccalaureate), and Mount Angel Seminary, St. Benedict, Oregon (Masters of Arts in Theology). They were pivotal in his intellectual, pastoral, human, and spiritual formations. He is grateful to his family, the archdiocese, Archbishop John C. Wester, vocation directors, and friends, who have helped him in discerning the will of God.

**Jordan Sánchez** was born on August 1, 1993 in Charlotte, NC to Angela Clarke and Randy Sánchez. He grew up in Albuquerque with his younger sister, Amber and his late half-brother, Cole. In his youth a parishioner of St. Joseph's on the Rio Grande parish in Albuquerque, he is now registered at St. Thomas Aquinas in Rio Rancho. He is grateful to the priests at both who have in some way nurtured his vocation. He graduated from St. Pius X High School in 2011, and then went to UNM for his first year of college. He was accepted into the seminary and was sent to Holy Trinity Seminary near Dallas, TX for four years. During his summers away from the seminary, he was stationed at a variety of places around the archdiocese. He is grateful for his time at each of these: San Isidro in Corrales, the Catholic Charismatic Center in Albuquerque, San Juan Bautista and Tewa Missions in Ohkay Owingeh, St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center in Albuquerque, and St. Anne's in Tucumcari. After graduating with his undergraduate degree in Philosophy in Dallas, he was sent to Mt. Angel Seminary near Portland, OR, where he is still completing his graduate studies. After his second year in Oregon, he spent a year at Santa Maria de la Paz in Santa Fe for a pastoral internship. He can't wait to serve as a deacon for the next year, and as a priest for the rest of his life.—Contact: Office of Vocations 505.831.8143--END