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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Archbishop John C. Wester Thanks Jesuits for 152 Years of Service to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe**

#### **Archdiocese to Assume Pastoral Leadership of Immaculate Conception Parish by June 2021**

ALBUQUERQUE – Monday, July 27, 2020 – At the invitation of then-Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy, the Jesuit Fathers came to Albuquerque from Naples, Italy in 1867. Building on their rich heritage, they brought that fire first ignited by St. Ignatius to our Southwest, reminding us that the first principle of our existence is to be one with God forever in heaven. At the same time, and in the spirit of St. Francis Xavier, St. Peter Faber and other distinguished Jesuit priests and brothers, these missionary priests built up God’s Kingdom here on earth by finding God in all things and by loving our neighbor as ourselves. The culturally diverse and vibrant parish of Immaculate Conception in the heart of downtown Albuquerque has benefitted from the missionary activity of the Jesuits Fathers and Brothers since its inception in 1868.

For 152 years, Immaculate Conception Parish has thrived as a vibrant and dynamic parish in the historic Archdiocese of Santa Fe, living up to its mission statement:

*As friends in the Lord, we support one another in our ministries through a common life of worship and prayer, simplicity, spiritual conversation, encouragement, respect, and affection. We reflect and plan together with discerning love so that all our present and future endeavors at Immaculate Conception might be done for the greater glory of God.*

Not only has this Jesuit parish supported its own members, they have consistently reached out to countless others as they fulfill Christ’s mandate not to be served, but to serve and to give their lives for others.

There is no doubt that we owe a great debt of gratitude to our Jesuit brothers who have shepherded this parish so well for so long. Therefore, it is with sadness that we receive the news they no longer have the capacity to staff this beloved Catholic community. We will miss them very much and we will never forget them and all they have done for us over these many years. Their legacy will live on and we will continue to reap the fruits of their pastoral ministry in our midst. We wish them every success and assure them of our undying love, prayers and support. What they have done for the “greater glory of God” is a tribute to them and to God’s grace working in them and in the people of Immaculate Conception.

We also give thanks to God for the splendid priests of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe who will assume the pastoral leadership of Immaculate Conception Church by June 2021, working closely with the deacons and other leaders of the parish. Building on the strong foundation of the Jesuit Fathers and Brothers, they will move the parish forward in its mission to serve and to give its life for the ransom of many (Cf. Matthew 20:28). –END

Archbishop John C. Wester | Very Reverend Ronald Mercier, SJ, Provincial, Jesuits USA, Central & Southern Province | Reverend Warren J. Broussard, SJ, Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, 619 Copper Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102 met virtually to record a video message to the people of Immaculate Conception Parish in Albuquerque. [View here](#). Contact: Immaculate Conception Parish | 505.247.4271 | <https://www.iccabq.org/>