



**Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
Office of Communications/  
Social Media**

4000 Saint Joseph Place NW

Albuquerque, NM 87120-1714

Leslie M. Radigan, Director

Voice 505.831.8180, FAX 505.831.8248

lradigan@archdiosf.org, www.archdiosf.org

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Archdiocese of Santa Fe Joins National Effort to  
Overcome Polarization and Division**

ALBUQUERQUE – Wednesday, September 8, 2021—IMMEDIATE RELEASE—The Archdiocese of Santa Fe is joining the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in launching a new initiative inspired by *Fratelli Tutti* to address polarization in society. In response to the call of Pope Francis to build “a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good” (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 154), *Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics* asks Catholics to pledge charity, clarity, and creativity to promote the common good.

*Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics* is a nonpartisan initiative from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that seeks to assist Catholics to counter polarization and division in Church and society by following the example of the Good Samaritan, who challenges us to “become neighbors to all” (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 80). Building off the successful 2019/2020 campaign of the same name, *Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics* seeks to engage individuals, families, and communities in dialogue and bridgebuilding in pursuit of the common good beyond election season.

Archbishop John C. Wester states,

How we speak and listen to one another makes a difference. If we speak and listen with the goal of achieving greater understanding and charity, rather than trying to change someone’s ideas, we open ourselves to meeting Christ in the heart of the ‘other.’ I often think about the Latin phrase, *Cor ad Cor Loquitur*, meaning ‘Heart Speaks to Heart,’ which comes from a letter written by St. Francis de Sales to one of his spiritual directees. Later, St. John Henry Newman took it as his own episcopal motto. When we listen to another’s heart with the goal of understanding, we are invited to see more clearly our responsibility to love our neighbor and act for the common good.

Along with a pledge to charity, clarity and creativity, additional materials, including an examination of conscience, individual and communal reflection guides, action steps, and more, are available to empower individuals, families, and communities to be bridge builders across perspectives.

Catholics across the Archdiocese of Santa Fe are invited to pledge charity, clarity and creativity to promote the common good at [www.civilizeit.org](http://www.civilizeit.org) where there are also downloadable resources.

Contact: Office of Social Justice & Respect Life 505.831.8205--END