

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 4, 2022

My Dear People of God,

We are all deeply concerned for our fellow citizens who are dealing with the terrible fires in our state. We are also concerned for the brave men and women who are fighting the fires and the first responders who are doing all they can to save lives and property. I know that all our parishes are praying hard that the fires will be extinguished and that all concerned will be safe. Our Office of Worship has issued a communique through our Vicar General to all parishes, giving them resources for the celebration of the Eucharist in times of calamity and distress. I know you all join me in praying for everyone affected by these devastating fires. You will find a prayer at the end of this letter that you can use at home or in other gatherings as we ask God to protect our brothers and sisters in the path of the fires.

As always, our priests are there to help those in need, especially when people are suffering such loss as in the current fire situation in New Mexico. I have encouraged our reverend pastors to take up a collection to assist those who have lost their homes and other property in the fires. You are also invited to send further donations to our Catholic Charities office at 2010 Bridge Boulevard SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105.

Thank you all for your prayers, support and financial gifts. These are signs of our care and concern for our fellow citizens. They make Christ's presence more deeply felt in the lives of those who are suffering.

Yours in the Peace of the Risen Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads '+ John C. Wester'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe

Loving God, Father of us all and giver of every good gift, we turn to you in our need as our fellow citizens suffer from the wildfires raging in our beautiful state of New Mexico. We ask you to protect and comfort those who have been forced to evacuate, those who have lost a home or other property and all those who are in harm's way. Guide and guard the brave men and women who are fighting the fires and all of our civic leaders who are joining in this valiant effort. Give us favorable weather in this struggle and send us those graces we need to come together as one family to face the current crisis together. May generous hearts and hands reach out to those who are forced from home and may we all care for one another as you care for us. We make our prayer through Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen. St. Florian, pray for us.