



Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Office of Communications/Social Media

4000 St. Joseph's Pl NW | Albuquerque, NM 87120-1714

Leslie M. Radigan, Director

505.831.8180 | LRadigan@asfnm.org

archdiosf.org

NEWS RELEASE

CHI St. Joseph's Children's Board of Directors Engages with Pope Francis in Inspirational Meeting

ROME, ITALY – Friday, December 15, 2023 – IMMEDIATE RELEASE – ROME, ITALY – Friday, December 15, 2023 – IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The Board of Directors of CHI St. Joseph's Children had the honor of being acknowledged by Pope Francis during his Dec. 6 audience. Among the esteemed representatives was board member Elena Aguilar from San Idelfonso Pueblo in New Mexico. Dressed in traditional Native American attire, Aguilar presented Pope Francis with the Novena to Servant of God, Sr. Blandina Segale, SC. The Servant of God, Sr. Blandina, began some of the first public schools and hospitals in New Mexico, including St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe and St. Joseph's Hospital in Albuquerque.

Despite Pope Francis' ongoing health recovery from bronchitis, he graciously greeted and encouraged the pilgrims in their devotion to Christ. The encounter was a testament to the resilience and dedication of the CHI St. Joseph's Children's Board of Directors in their mission.



The board members are on a pilgrimage and retreat dedicated to promoting the Servant of God, Sr. Blandina Cause for Beatification and Canonization. The focus of their prayers is the veneration of the Servant of God, Sr. Blandina, seeking divine intervention for her canonization. The pilgrims are retracing the steps of the Servant of God, Sr. Blandina, who, at the age of 81, petitioned for the Cause for Beatification and Canonization of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, SC, the founder of the Sisters of Charity.

The Servant of God, Sr. Blandina Segale, SC, is revered for her tireless efforts in social services, particularly in the realm of education, immigration, and healthcare. CHI St. Joseph's Children is committed to upholding and continuing her legacy of compassion and service.

The Joyful Parenting Partners of CHI St. Joseph's Children, affectionately known as modern-day Blandinas, actively support and further the Servant of God, Sr. Blandina's mission in their communities. All first-time parents are offered Prenatal Home Visits (if enrolled during pregnancy) with week-by-week pregnancy curriculum and pregnancy models, including information that prepares the family for labor and delivery. Following the birth of the baby, Postpartum Home Visits provide detailed information about the baby's first few weeks of life as well as what the mom is experiencing. These modern-day Blandinas teach parents how to do infant massage, provide breastfeeding support and lactation consultation, and provide case management services. The pilgrimage serves as an opportunity for reflection, prayer, and recommitment to the values exemplified by the Servant of God, Sr. Blandina.

As the Board of Directors continues their journey, they remain steadfast in their belief that through the Servant of God, Sr. Blandina's intercession, great things can be achieved for the betterment of society. Their pilgrimage and advocacy reflect the enduring impact of the Servant of God, Sr. Blandina Segale's legacy and the profound influence she continues to have on the work of CHI St. Joseph's Children.

For more information on CHI St. Joseph's Children and the Servant of God, Sr. Blandina Segale, SC, Servant of God, contact Allen Sánchez 505.319.3334 | allen.sanchez@commonspirit.org

###