



## Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Office of Communications/Social Media

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

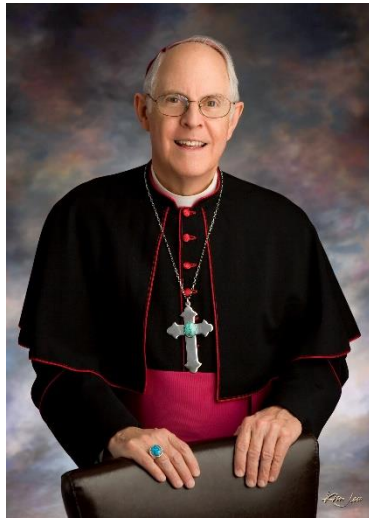
Leslie M. Radigan, Director

Voice: 505.831.8180

lradigan@archdiosf.org | archdiosf.org

### NEWS RELEASE

## Most Reverend Michael Jarboe Sheehan, Archbishop Emeritus of Santa Fe Remembered for His Life of Service and Faith



ALBUQUERQUE – Saturday, June 3, 2023– IMMEDIATE RELEASE – It is with sadness and profound faith in the Risen Christ, Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, announced that Most Reverend Michael Jarboe Sheehan, Archbishop Emeritus of Santa Fe, passed away June 3, 2023. Archbishop Emeritus Sheehan, a beloved spiritual leader, was born on July 9, 1939, and dedicated his life to the service of God and his community, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those around him. He was ordained on July 12, 1964, in Rome, Italy by Auxiliary Bishop Filippo Pocci for the Diocese of Dallas, was installed as the eleventh Archbishop of Santa Fe on September 21, 1993, and retired June 4, 2015.

Archbishop Sheehan's peaceful departure brings to an end a remarkable journey that spanned over eight decades, during which he selflessly guided countless individuals on their spiritual path and worked tirelessly to uplift the lives of those in need. Known for his unwavering faith, compassionate nature, and profound wisdom, he leaves a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations.

Throughout his tenure as the Archbishop of Santa Fe, Archbishop Emeritus Sheehan led with unwavering dedication, offering solace, guidance, and hope to his flock. His genuine love for the Church and unwavering commitment to its teachings were evident in his every action as he strove to promote unity, compassion, and understanding among all believers.

Beyond his pastoral responsibilities, Archbishop Emeritus Sheehan was deeply committed to social justice, evangelization, and worked tirelessly to abolish the death penalty in New Mexico. He championed initiatives aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting equality, and ensuring the well-being of the most vulnerable members of society. His unwavering advocacy for human rights and dignity earned him the respect and admiration of people from all walks of life. On June 17, 2003, he was named Apostolic Administrator of Phoenix until December 20, 2003, and was elected the Secretary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops November 12, 2003 – December 1, 2006.

Archbishop Emeritus Sheehan's impact reached far beyond the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, as he actively engaged with interfaith communities and fostered dialogue and understanding between denominations. His commitment to ecumenism and interfaith collaboration served as a guiding light for promoting peace, harmony, and unity among diverse communities.

The loss of Archbishop Emeritus Michael Jarboe Sheehan will be deeply felt by the Roman Catholic Church, the local community, and countless individuals. His motto, "Love One Another Constantly," will continue to inspire and guide the faithful to uphold the values he held dear.

As the passing of Archbishop Emeritus Sheehan is mourned, let us remember his life as a testament to the power of faith, love, and service. In the coming days, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe will provide information

on funeral arrangements and opportunities for the community to honor and celebrate the life of this remarkable spiritual leader.

Archbishop Wester said, “He was a faithful servant of the Lord who loved this local Church and all its priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful. May Archbishop Sheehan rest in peace and may his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.”

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, brother priests, friends, and all those who were blessed by the grace of Archbishop Emeritus Michael Jarboe Sheehan. May he rest in eternal peace.

Curriculum Vitae  
**Most Reverend Michael Jarboe Sheehan**  
**Archbishop Emeritus of Santa Fe**

**Born** July 9, 1939 in Wichita, Kansas  
**Ordained** July 12, 1964 in Rome Italy by Auxiliary Bishop Filippo Pocci for the Diocese of Dallas  
**Episcopal** June 17, 1983 in Lubbock Texas by Archbishop Patrick Fernandez Flores as Principal Consecrator and Co-Consecrators Bishop Leroy Theodore Matthiesen and Bishop Thomas Ambrose Tschoepe

**Languages Spoken:** English, Spanish, Italian

**Appointments**

1965-1968 Parochial Vicar, Immaculate Conception, Tyler, TX  
1971-1976 Assistant General Secretary, NCCB / USCC  
1976-1982 Rector, Holy Trinity Seminary, Dallas, TX  
1982-1983 Pastor, Immaculate Conception, Grand Prairie, TX  
1983-1993 Appointed as First Bishop, Diocese of Lubbock (Installed June 17, 1983)  
04-06-1993 Apostolic Administrator, Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
08-17-1993 Appointed as Eleventh Archbishop, Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
09-21-1993 Installed as Eleventh Archbishop of Santa Fe  
06-17-2003 Apostolic Administrator of Phoenix (additional duty until December 20, 2003)  
11-12-2003 Elected Secretary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (additional duty until 12-01-2006)  
06-04-2015 Retired  
06-03-2023 Deceased

**Education**

1955-1957 Diploma, St. John’s High School Seminary, San Antonio, TX  
1957-1961 Assumption Seminary, San Antonio, TX  
1961-1965 MA, Theology, North American College, Rome Italy  
1965 STL, Theology, Gregorian University, Rome, Italy  
1971 JCD, Canon Law, Lateran University, Rome, Italy  
2006 Honorary Doctorate, Notre Dame University

**Board of Directors / Committees**

The Pontifical College Josephinum  
Episcopal Moderator for the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association  
Board of Governors, North American College  
Board of Directors, Holy Trinity Seminary, Dallas  
Board of Directors, Mexican American Cultural Center  
Board of Directors, Mutual of Omaha

Board of Directors, Catholic Extension Society  
Board of Directors, Catholic Relief Services  
Board of Trustees, St. Mary's of the Plains Hospital, Lubbock  
Board of Directors, United Way Program  
NCCB Administrative Committee  
NCCB American Board of Catholic Missions - Chairman  
NCCB Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry  
NCCB Communications Committee  
NCCB Committee on Hispanic Affairs  
NCCB Committee on Proselytism  
NCCB Evangelization Committee - Chairman  
USCCB Committee on Plans and Priorities - Chairman  
NCCB V Centenary Committee  
NCCB Bishops Committee on the Liturgy  
Tri-Conference Committee on Retirement for Religious  
Papal Visitation Team for US Seminaries  
Texas Catholic Conference Committee for Ecumenical Guidelines – Chairman

**Publications**

Why Be a Catholic, Series of 12 Pamphlets, Our Sunday Visitor  
Article in The Jurist Magazine  
Article in The New Catholic Encyclopedia  
Article in Catholic Evangelization

**Pastoral Letters**

A New Way of Acting: Catholic Evangelization in the Diocese of Lubbock  
An Invitation to Love  
Mission Texas  
Always Our Children  
Cohabitation  
Infant Baptism  
To Honor Our Dead  
Seeds of Struggle, Harvest of Faith  
From Despair to Hope  
Evangelization  
Sacrament of Confession  
Reverence for the Eucharist  
Pastoral Care for Couples Who Are Cohabiting  
Year of Faith

--END