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STATEMENT

Most Reverend John C. Wester on the Election Results

ALBUQUERQUE – Friday, November 8, 2024—IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe issued the following statement about the election results:

As we mark the election of Donald J. Trump as the 47th President of the United States, along with the election of many others to public office, I ask that all of us in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe pray that God will give our newly elected leaders the graces they need to serve the common good, to promote the well-being of our country and to serve with selfless devotion as they live up to the ideals of their office.

We understand that our newly elected officials at the federal, state and city levels serve at a challenging time for us as a nation. We are all aware of the polarization that has marked our politics of late. Here in New Mexico, we are also aware of the strains that poverty, addiction and violent crime place on all of us. Therefore, it is incumbent on us not only to pray for our leaders but also to do all we can to cooperate in the great enterprise of building a just and peaceful society. We must all see ourselves as instruments of healing, unity and peace. The Gospel offers us a vision of a just society, one in which truth, love, mercy and justice reign. Pope Francis calls this the “culture of care.” We will get there through faith, prayer, truth-telling, personal conversion, and agreeing to disagree without collapsing into anger, righteousness or violence. Healing and unity can happen when “heart speaks to heart.”

I believe that as Catholics, we are called to speak boldly the Gospel truths as we model thoughtful, civil dialogue and deep listening. I recognize that our call to engage in the public square means that we will have differing beliefs and approaches to policies. Nonetheless, we must strike a tone of dialogue within our pluralistic society. Jesus offers us the Way: to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. In this vein, I find that Cardinal Robert McElroy of San Diego, California, captures well how we are to participate in the public square, namely, to foster “...a relationship of dialogue, not judgment; collaboration, not isolation; truth in charity, not harshness.”

I hope and pray that our newly elected officials will lead us in our civil journey of truth telling, reconciliation, the softening of hearts and the recognition of the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death and everything in-between. These themes need to be woven into the fabric of our society if we are to live up to our calling to truly be the United States. May God bless us and guide us as we strengthen the ties that bind us to one another in mercy and love.

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