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NEWS RELEASE

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe Opens the Year of St. Francis Statement and Prayer from Archbishop John C. Wester

ALBUQUERQUE—Tuesday, March 24, 2026 —IMMEDIATE RELEASE— Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, joyfully opened the Year of St. Francis, a time dedicated to reflecting on the life, witness, and teachings of St. Francis of Assisi. This year invites all the faithful to grow in simplicity, humility, and care for God's creation, following the example of St. Francis, who embodied Gospel living through love of neighbor, devotion to prayer, and reverence for all creation.

The Year of St. Francis will encourage parishes, schools, and communities across the Archdiocese of Santa Fe to deepen their commitment to the poor, to promote peace and justice, and to cultivate an awareness of the sacredness of all life. It is a call for every disciple to live out the Gospel with joy and compassion, guided by the spirit of St. Francis.

Prayer to Open and Dedicate the Archdiocese to the Year of St. Francis

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the gift of St. Francis, whose life reflected the joy of the Gospel, love for the poor, and reverence for all creation.

As we open this Year of St. Francis in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, we dedicate ourselves to following his example of humility, simplicity, and service.

Bless our priests, deacons, religious, lay leaders, and all the faithful, that we may care for one another with compassion, work for peace and justice, and protect the beauty of your creation. May this year inspire us to live the Gospel with joy, to bring hope to the poor, and to witness your love in every corner of our archdiocese.

Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Amen.

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