



ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE
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News Release

Archbishop John C. Wester on the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Tuesday, April 12, 2016 – We in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe give thanks to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. This welcome teaching on love in the family was fittingly signed by the pope on the feast day of St. Joseph who is the patron saint of the family of the Church, foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary. In this document, Pope Francis renews the Church's ancient and continuous teaching on mercy as he exhorts pastors and the faithful to allow the compassion of Christ to touch the fabric of our lives, especially our families. This theme is especially appropriate as we celebrate this Year of Mercy.

Drawing on a variety of resources, the Holy Father grounds his exhortation on the two synods on the family held in Rome over the past few years and on the documents approved by the synod fathers by a two-thirds majority. His teaching also reflects a world-wide consultation on the family that took place to prepare for those synods. Consistent with his past teachings, Pope Francis stresses the importance of local Churches in the application of doctrine, never losing sight of the mercy of God who wishes to accompany all of his children on the journey of faith and in the complexities and challenges of modern family life. I look forward to meeting with pastors and other Catholic leaders throughout the archdiocese in the days and weeks ahead as we study this eagerly awaited document. With *Amoris Laetitia* as our guide, I pray that all of the faithful will experience in ever deeper ways the mercy and love of our loving Father who sent his only Son that we might have life to the full. I humbly ask that the risen Lord will raise His arms of benediction over our local church of Santa Fe and illumine our path as we seek to deepen an experience of Christ's healing and strength in all of our families.--END