



**ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE  
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**Press Release**

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**Archbishop John C. Wester to Ordain  
Four Seminarians to the Priesthood**

Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe, NM  
Saturday, May 26, 2018  
10:00 A.M. Mass

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Thursday, May 24, 2018— IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Archbishop John C. Wester will ordain four seminarians to the priesthood on Saturday, May 26, 2018 at the 10:00 A.M. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe, NM.

The four men who will become Roman Catholic priests represent the great universality of the Church. The men to be ordained are: Deacon John Kimani from Kenya, Deacon Christopher Martinez from Questa, NM, Deacon Jason Pettigrew from Clovis, NM, and Deacon Tai Pham from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

This special day is a cause of great joy for all Catholics in the archdiocese. All are welcome.

Brief biographies of these seminarians to be ordained follow.--END

## **Archdiocese of Santa Fe Seminarians - Class of 2018**

*Brief biographies provided by the ASF Office of Vocations*

**John Kimani** is 37 years old and was born and raised in Kenya. His family is a very devout Catholic family. He has two brothers and two sisters. They support his desire to become a Catholic priest. He studied to become a computer analyst after high school and worked in that field for about two years. He then joined a Benedictine Community in Kenya until he could join the Christ in the Desert Community in Abiquiu, NM. He greatly desired to become a priest and through the guidance of his superiors, joined the Benedictine Monastery in Pecos, NM. However, he had a great desire for the diocesan priesthood. In 2013, he entered the Archdiocese of Santa Fe priestly program and went to Holy Apostles Seminary and then Mt. Angel Seminary to study to become a priest. He has served in many parishes around the archdiocese including: St. Charles Borromeo and St. Anthony's in Peñasco, NM.

**Christopher Martinez** is 36 years old and he is from Questa, NM. Christopher was raised in Catholic family and he is the oldest. He has one sister and one brother. His family supports his decision to become a priest. Christopher admits that he got away from the Church as a teenager, but returned with the help others who gave him the hint that he might be called to the priesthood. He felt drawn to the idea. At his parish, Christopher taught ninth grade confirmation as well as lecturing at Mass. He loves sports such as basketball and baseball. In 2013, he started his formation at Holy Apostles Seminary and then Mt. Angel Seminary. He has served in a various parishes around the archdiocese: Our Lady of Guadalupe in Peña Blanca, St. Jude in Albuquerque and St. Anne's in Santa Fe.

**Jason Pettigrew** is 48 years old and is from Our Lady of Guadalupe in Clovis, NM. Jason did not grow up in a religious home, but when he was about 30 he decided to visit various churches of different denominations. He would find himself drawn to the Catholic faith. Through the help of a parish priest from Gunnison, CO, he started RCIA and become a Catholic in 2005. Jason's work was a cowboy and this parish priest would come to him out in the range to teach him about the faith. This inspired Jason that he might be called to become a priest. He tried various communities in searching for where God might want him and he ended up in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. He started seminary in 2013 at Holy Apostles Seminary and transferred to Mt. Angel in 2016. He has served in parishes around the archdiocese including Our Lady of Guadalupe in Taos, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Clovis and San Clemente in Los Lunas.

**Tai Pham** is 36 years old and was born in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. He moved to the United States when he was nine years old. He was raised in a Catholic family and he has two brothers. His father passed away, but his mother is still alive and doing well. He has Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from UNM. About nine years ago, Archbishop Emeritus Michael J. Sheehan gave a talk about vocations at his parish, Our Lady of Lavang, and he felt an inner calling to become a priest. He contacted the Vocations Director at the time, Fr. Michael DePalma and went to a discernment retreat, but was uncertain. He waited one more year and finally decided this was God's will for him to become a priest. He entered seminary in 2013 at Holy Apostles Seminary and transferred to Mt. Angel in 2016. He has served in various places around the archdiocese including Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish in Albuquerque, St. Anthony's in Peñasco and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Los Alamos.