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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

January 1, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the New Year! I wish you a blessed 2017. Last year, as Pope Francis led a call for a Holy Year of Mercy – he and the whole body of the People of God focused on words and actions of mercy. Pope Francis reflects that we are a Church of Mercy – of God's great love for all of us.

I am eager to continue this beautiful message of Christ. As Psalm 136 emphasizes, "*His mercy endures forever*". We are all called to love and have mercy for all our fellow human beings. As Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:40, "*Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me*". We are given the Corporal works of mercy as a guide to show God's love to the world.

In 2017, we will focus on "Feed the Hungry" in everything we do. All of the ministries, outreach and administration will bear this witness of Christ to the world. I invite you to participate in your own lives, families and workplaces. We can all pitch in by not wasting food, volunteering at a soup kitchen, and/or educating our children on the hunger around the world.

There are no easy answers to the hunger in our own community. I am asking for you to support the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal, "His Mercy Endures Forever...Feed the Hungry" as another way to actively participate in the Archdiocesan-wide effort to spread God's love and mercy through the work of all our ministries. Consider fasting and donating the monies saved to the efforts of our outreach. Donating to these efforts helps spread the work of Christ to our own communities -beyond our own parishes.

Our communities need God's love shown to them. Please give generously to the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal. When Christ becomes the center of our lives then we aren't the center any longer: love gives itself away.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe