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News Release

Archbishop John C. Wester to Dedicate Rebuilt St. Anthony Church 10 Church Plaza, Questa NM 87556 Sunday, August 14, 2016 12:00 Noon Mass

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Monday, August 08, 2016 —IMMEDIATE RELEASE—The Archdiocese of Santa Fe and San Antonio del Rio Colorado Historical Preservation Group are pleased to announce the following:

On Sunday, August 14, 2016, Most Rev. John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, will dedicate the rebuilt St. Anthony Church at 10 Church Plaza, Questa, NM, 87556. Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop Emeritus of Santa Fe, and Rev. Andrew Ifele, pastor, will concelebrate. Deacon Leroy J. Lucero and Deacon Marcus J. Rael will assist. The Mass of Dedication will take place at 12:00 noon.

I look forward to celebrating the Mass and consecrating St. Anthony Church in Questa on August 14th. I congratulate all those who worked so hard in the restoration of this historical and beautiful parish church. I wish to express sincere thanks to Fr. Andrew Ifele, his dedicated parishioners and the community volunteers who work so hard and rallied together to generously donate over 40,000 hours. Archbishop John C. Wester

We are very excited to complete this journey of faith and devotion to save and restore our church culminating with the Mass of Dedication on August 14. The countless network of volunteers that worked tirelessly on this project serve as an inspiration to us all having completed the restoration in five years and one year ahead of schedule, while not only maintaining the historical and architectural characteristics but by also enhancing the structural integrity that will insure that our church will stand the test of time for many generations to come. We were very blessed to have Fr. Andrew Ifele support us and participate throughout the process and we could not have done this without project manager Mark Sideris and the all the many volunteers. May God Bless them all! Mr. Bobby Ortega, President, SARPHP.

Our dedicated St. Anthony and Questa community has proven to serve as a role model of strength and unity. Our rebuilt church stands tall on the shoulders of so many dedicated souls who have tirelessly volunteered their unique treasures to maintain and strengthen the legacy of our deep Roman Catholic faith our ancestors brought to northern New Mexico over 400 years ago. I look forward to a great day of celebration! Rev. Andrew Ifele, Pastor, St. Anthony Parish

A reception will follow at the Parish Center.

BACKGROUND: St. Anthony's Parish – Questa

The settlement of Questa, formerly known as San Antonio del Rio Colorado, was officially founded in 1842. From that time to 1857 the area was served from Taos. In 1857, the area began to be served from the parish in Arroyo Hondo. The church, dedicated to San Antonio, was built in the 1860s and was at that time still listed as a mission of Arroyo Hondo. At the turn of the century, Questa was served from Our Lady of Guadalupe in Taos, and in 1906 it was listed as a mission of Costilla. It continued to be served from Costilla until 1941 when it was established as a parish in its own right. Rev. Glynn Patrick Smith was named first pastor of Questa on July 29, 1941. He served there until January 6, 1946 when he was transferred to Cristo Rey Parish in Santa Fe.

Today, Rev. Andrew Ifele, ministers to St. Anthony parish and its missions: Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Mission Church, Cerro, NM; Sagrado Corazon Mission Church, Costilla, NM; Santo Niño Mission Church, Amalia, NM; St. Edwin Mission Church, Red River, NM.

Contact: Mr. Bobby Ortega 575.770.0121; St. Anthony Parish 575.586.0470--END