



ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
4000 Saint Joseph Place NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120-1714



Media Advisory

Child Well-Being in New Mexico: Call to Action

Archbishop John C. Wester Hosts Symposium to

Address Alarming Statistics: New Mexico Ranks 2nd in Child Hunger in USA

Source: *Map the Meal Gap* Report 2016

NM has the highest percentage of children in USA living in poverty at 30%.

Source: *Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count* 2016 Report

Saturday, October 1, 2016 – 10:00am – 2:00pm

St. Pius X High School Gym, 5501 St. Joseph's Drive NW, ABQ, NM 87120

To register please visit <http://bit.ly/2cjZQzc> or call CHI St. Joseph's Children at 505-924-8057

Celine B. Radigan, Director
Voice 505.831.8180, FAX 505.831.8248, cradigan@archdiosf.org www.archdiosf.org

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Thursday, September 29, 2016— Archbishop John C. Wester will host the Symposium on Child Well-Being in New Mexico, Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at St. Pius X High School Gym, 5501 St. Joseph's Drive NW, 87120. Free lunch will be served. New Mexico is in crisis. Archbishop John C. Wester is sounding the alarm.

I write to you today with a heavy heart and deep concern for the well-being of our children of New Mexico. As a state, the statistics are very grim regarding the condition of our children. New Mexico holds the United States' highest rate of children living in poverty and the second highest percentage of children going to bed hungry every night. Our children need intervention and support now.

On October 1, 2016 we are convening experts to speak on the subject of child well-being in New Mexico and invite public participation to explore the possibilities for making systemic change.

Please, in this year of mercy, join me in praying for our little ones and together with our community answering this call before us. The situation of our children is alarming, I'm hoping this symposium will find solutions to this alarming situation and help our children who are desperately in dire straits.

Archbishop John C. Wester

Dr. M. Rebecca Kilburn will be joining us as a key note speaker. She is a Senior Economist at the RAND Corporation and a professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. During her 22 years at RAND, much of Dr. Kilburn's research has involved evaluation of public and private investments in childhood. She is a nationally recognized expert on evidence-based programs and systematic review of child and family interventions. The RAND Corporation located in Santa Monica, CA, is one of the most preeminent research organizations in the US. RAND develops solutions to public policy challenges to help make communities throughout the world safer and more secure, healthier and more prosperous. It is nonprofit, nonpartisan and committed to the public interest.

The event is co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and CHI St. Joseph's Children. All are welcome, registration is required. ASL and Spanish interpretation will be available. To register please visit <http://bit.ly/2cjZQzc> or call CHI St. Joseph's Children at 505-924-8057.--END