



**SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR**

**MONIQUE JACOBSON
CABINET SECRETARY**

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Office of Communications
Celine B. Radigan, Director
4000 Saint Joseph Place NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120-1714

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State of New Mexico-Archdiocese of Santa Fe Joint Press Release

Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico Clean & Beautiful Say *Toss No Mas* During El Santuario de Chimayo Pilgrimage

Every year thousands of people journey to Chimayo, which is most famous for the beautiful, El Santuario de Chimayo the small adobe church, in search of spiritual or physical healing, because they believe it was built on sacred grounds that possess curative powers, and that many people have been restored to health by the sacred earth.

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe is joining with New Mexico Clean & Beautiful, a program of the New Mexico Tourism Department, to encourage pilgrimage participants to refrain from littering the State's highways and byways on their walk to Chimayo during Holy Week, April 17 – 24, 2011.

"I encourage parishioners to walk on pilgrimage, but to be mindful that we are called to be good citizens," said Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop of Santa Fe.

District 5 crews of the New Mexico Department of Transportation will place trash receptacles along state roads to help reduce littering.

Santa Fe County said county crews plan to place portable toilets on county roads, including the 1.5-mile-long Juan Medina Road (County Road 98), the last stretch from the south into the Santuario de Chimayo.

Participants are also encouraged to carry a backpack or plastic bag to provide a place to carry their trash.

For more information, contact the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, 505.831.8100 or <http://www.holychimayo.us/>; or Joseph Lobato, 505.827.6346 or joe.lobato@state.nm.us

Mike Stauffer, Communications Director, New Mexico Tourism Department
505.827.7379, mike.stauffer@state.nm.us