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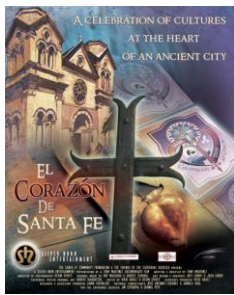
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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Santa Fe Unwraps Her First "Gift" for 400th Birthday**

**Movie Premieres to a SOLD-OUT Audience in  
Gala Evening Kicking off Spanish Market  
6:00 PM Wednesday, July 15, 2009**



Albuquerque, NM—Thursday, July 16, 2009-- Immediate Release --

*As the ancient city of Santa Fe approaches the four hundredth anniversary of its founding, a new feature-length documentary, **El Corazón de Santa Fe**, produced by The Friends of the Cathedral Basilica and The Santa Fe Community Foundation will commemorate and honor the role the Catholic faith has played in the founding of the town and its famous iconic Basilica, both named after St. Francis.*

The red carpet will be tightly packed next Wednesday evening, July 22, 2009 outside the Lensic Performing Arts Center, Santa Fe. Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan, Arthur and Patty Newman, Carla Aragon, Drew Bacigalupa, Tony Martinez, and other dignitaries will be on hand to welcome attendees to the premiere showing of a feature-length documentary that examines the 400 year-old story of the City of Holy Faith and its famous landmark, The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

While the Basilica's new bells toll, the luminaries will be joined on the red carpet by members of the Royal Fiesta Court, actors portraying famous Santa Fe figures such as Doña Tules and Governor Manuel Armijo, and a troupe of darling eight-year old actors playing their adult counterparts, with a miniature Archbishop Lamy and Don Diego de Vargas rounding out the ensemble.

Once inside, audience members will soon forget the hoopla and flash of photographers' cameras as they will be transported back through the centuries to hear, see, and witness the compelling stories of the pioneers, Native peoples, and the Catholic faithful who came to New Mexico before the Jamestown story had even begun.

Finding someone to tell Santa Fe's faith story on film was a daunting task—how best to cram four hundred years of history, in a state spread out over thousands of acres, representing diverse populations of native peoples, Hispanic and Anglo newcomers, and many other cultures? Though such a far-reaching and in-depth project was difficult to imagine, and certainly exhausting to translate to the big screen, the final product is a testament to the vision of church and town leaders, and a tribute to its director, E. Anthony Martinez. Msgr. Jerome Martinez y Alires, Rector of the Cathedral Basilica said, "Santa Fe's history is too wonderful to keep under a bushel basket. It needs to be put on a lamp stand for all to see, and in seeing this film, it will become an inspiration for future generations."

E. Anthony Martinez, a 15-generation Santa Fean, has deep roots in the community that made him the right person for the job. Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy served as last-minute godfather to one of Martinez's ancestors when a relative failed to show up at a family baptism during the 1800s. Martinez's father, a local photographer, took countless pictures of the Cathedral (it was accorded Basilica status in 2005), the Loretto Chapel, and the St. Francis school on the Cathedral grounds.

Martinez began his film career in Arizona, learning the television news and sports casting business for various network affiliates. He has worked for CNN, ESPN, and other news organizations. His production company, Silver Horn Entertainment, has won various national awards, including an Edward R. Murrow, Peabody, and several Emmy awards. A 2002 project, about New Mexico's soldiers in the infamous Bataan Death March, entitled *Colors of Courage: Sons of New Mexico, Prisoners of Japan* was narrated by actor Gene Hackman. A recent film *Soldiers of Honor*, was selected for inclusion in the GI Film Festival.

Martinez tackled the subject matter for *El Corazón de Santa Fe* with an intensity that necessitated a blistering multi-year, multi-state schedule. Based in Texas, Martinez filmed throughout New Mexico, using both in-depth interviews and historic reenactments to tell the story about Spanish settlers in the great Southwest. What he uncovered is a fresh perspective on Santa Fe's faith journey that began with the establishment of Santa Fe between 1605 and 1610, withstood extreme challenges century after century.

The film contains over sixty interviews with preeminent historians who provide a revisionist history lesson of Santa Fe as a place on the vanguard of social reconciliation and justice. As Martinez put it: "The followers of St. Francis in New Mexico lead us out of that wilderness toward a society in New Mexico that is truly multicultural; one that effectively erases divisive borders between us."

Martinez concludes: "[t]he film reminds us of the vital role Catholicism plays in Santa Fe's history, from its very name to the icon of the Basilica itself in the heart of the City. Ignorance has perpetuated misperceptions about our history and this story is for anyone who loves Santa Fe and wants to understand her better."

*El Corazón de Santa Fe* premieres at Santa Fe's Lensic Performing Arts Center on July 22, 2009, and is sold-out. DVDs are available for purchase at \$24.95 from the Cathedral Basilica Gift Shop. For more information about the film, please visit [www.silverhornerentertainment.com](http://www.silverhornerentertainment.com), [www.archdiosf.org](http://www.archdiosf.org)---END