



AMERICAN NATIONAL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**American National Catholic Church
Code of Canon Law
Preamble**

We wish you grace and peace in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

We the people of God, in this year of grace 2009, having prayed to God for guidance from the Holy Spirit feel called in this place and time to organize the American National Catholic Church as a living witness to the Spirit of God who renews God's Church in every age. We declare that we are a valid expression of the ancient Catholic faith, theologically, sacramentally, and pastorally rooted to the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church which flowed from the side of Jesus Christ as he hung upon the cross. We affirm that we are born of the same Holy Spirit which inspired the Apostles on Pentecost with courage to proclaim in every tongue the all-embracing love of God at the heart of our Incarnational experience of God ever present in our world.

We celebrate the unity of the Catholic Church even in her diverse expressions and offer ourselves as a valid Church within the ancient Catholic Tradition, laying claim to the truth of the foundational creeds of the Catholic Church. Further we find an articulation for the American National Catholic Church in the words of *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church from that wonderful moment in history when the Church was inspired by the spirit of Pentecost to declare:

In virtue of this catholicity each individual part of the Church contributes through its special gifts to the good of the other parts and of the whole Church. Thus through the common sharing of gifts and through the common effort to attain fullness in unity, the whole and each of the parts receive increase. Not only, then, is the People of God made up of different peoples, but even in its inner structure it is composed of various ranks. This diversity among its members arises either by reason of their duties as is the case with those who exercise the sacred ministry for the good of their brethren, or by reason of their situation and way of life, as is the case

with those many who enter the religious state and, tending toward holiness by a narrower path, stimulate their brethren by their example.

Moreover, within the Church particular Churches hold their rightful place. These Churches retain their own Traditions without in any way lessening the primacy of the Chair of Peter. . .

Finally, between all the parts of the Church there remains a bond of close communion with respect to spiritual riches, apostolic workers, and temporal resources. For the members of the People of God are called to share these goods, and to each of the Churches the words of the Apostle apply: "According to the gift each has received, administer it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1Peter 4:10).¹

Reflecting on the current state of Church in the world, we feel called by God's loving Son to Incarnate anew, in the American National Catholic Church this unifying, liberating, and renewing Spirit of God in an attempt to stimulate our brethren and ourselves to the holiness and wholeness we are all called to by the extravagant example of God's love made manifest in the Paschal Mystery of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Thus we pray that the Canons of the American National Catholic Church will reflect our commitment to spreading the all-inclusive love of God, by providing a liberating set of norms to govern our Church with Christ as our model for charity and his Holy Mother Mary as our model for humility.

Blessings,

The Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM
First Presiding Bishop of the American National Catholic Church
October 4, 2009

¹ Abbott, Walter M, S.J., Ed. (1966) The Documents of Vatican II. Herder and Herder: New York, page 31-32