

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American National Catholic Church Welcomes Fr. John Wheeler

The Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM, Presiding Bishop of the American National Catholic Church, joyfully welcomes Fr. John Wheeler as the latest clergy to incardinate in the ANCC.

Fr. John earned a BBA and a JD from the University of New Mexico. He served as a Roman Catholic and independent Catholic deacon for nearly thirty years prior to his 2012 ordination to the priesthood.

An active attorney, one of Fr. John's ministries is assisting senior citizens with estate planning, a service that he frequently provides pro bono. Additionally, he is assigned to Holy Family ANCC, a parish in Las Cruces, New Mexico, which celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year. He assists the parish pastor there, Fr. Jim Lehman, FCM, in serving the People of God.

Fr. John believes that the ANCC is the Church he's always been looking for, and is delighted for the opportunity to serve at Holy Family. For his part, Presiding Bishop Lucey says that he "gives thanks to God for Fr. John's response to God's call for us to serve the People of God in every season of our lives." The Bishop notes that in his decision to incardinate in the ANCC and serve one of its parishes, Fr. John is accepting Christ's challenge to "go and work in my vineyard." (Matthew 20:7)

The American National Catholic Church is an inclusive Catholic community, independent of the Roman Catholic Church, dedicated to making the world a more caring place. Guided by a presiding bishop, the ANCC celebrates the same sacraments as the Roman Church and follows the spirit of reform initiated by the Second Vatican Council. Although sharing core theological and liturgical practices with Roman Catholicism, the ANCC differs on several major points, such as married clergy, female priests, divorce and re-marriage, same-sex marriage, and lay leadership. The Church has parishes across the U.S. and offers a host of ministries to the alienated, under-served, and forgotten. For more information, visit www.TheANCC.org.