



## AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

June 10, 2016

Dear Rev. Fr. Matthew and the Parishioners of St. Joseph of Arimathea,

*+The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.*

Welcome Home!

Fr. Matthew communicated to me the unanimous decision of the parish to affiliate with the American National Catholic Church. I am overjoyed at your decision to join with the ANCC in proclaiming the all-inclusive and extravagant love of God in the world, and I welcome you with great joy, on behalf of the People and clergy of the American National Catholic Church.

It is my firm conviction that the Holy Spirit has called the ANCC into existence to be leaven in the bread for the Catholic Church, and has established us to join the Church in implementing the important ecclesial, pastoral, and liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

Your parish's informed decision in joining the ANCC in this mission adds your voice to ours in proclaiming to the world our belief that the central message of Jesus Christ, as manifested in the fullness of the doctrines and the sacramental life of the Catholic Church, is God's love for everyone, no exceptions.

We in the ANCC, now including you, have dedicated ourselves to creating credible Catholic communities, centered around the Eucharist, united by common liturgies, sharing the deposit of faith of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, and founded by the blood and water that flowed from the side of Christ. This is the faith passed on to us by all those courageous women and men, who like us, have boldly tried to live out our Catholic beliefs with justice, compassion, and integrity.

Our vision and founding principles shape our understanding of our mission in this way:

- *The American National Catholic Church is called into existence by the Holy Spirit to continue the dialogue begun at Vatican Council-II, and receives her valid succession through Rome via Bishop Duarte-Costa.*
- *The American National Catholic Church has been established to form authentic Catholic ministries and services open to all the People of God in the United States of America.*
- *The Church is the Body of Christ and the ANCC inherits the entire deposit of faith of the Church Catholic, whereby we draw our identity, nourishment and the practice of our Catholic Traditions.*
- *The American National Catholic Church joins the Church Catholic in her missionary and evangelical efforts to "Go out to all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."*

Thank you for your courage in joining with us, and know of our gratitude and prayers that God who has begun this good work in us will bring it to completion on the day of our salvation.

I look forward to my next visit with you, during which we will solemnize your affiliation with the American National Catholic Church with a liturgy of reception and installation of Fr. Matthew Bailey as the first ANCC pastor of St. Joseph of Arimathea,

Blessings,

Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM  
Presiding Bishop