



AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

November 3, 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The protracted and rancorous campaign season that will end next Tuesday has demonstrated just how polarized our society has become. Many of you, I'm sure, have been wearied and perhaps even driven close to cynicism by the personal attacks, derogatory comments, and bad behavior that have made this one of the most unpleasant presidential campaigns in living memory.

Tuesday, one of the two candidates for the highest office in the land will be elected President, and the campaign season will come to an end. We will then enter a season in which all of us will be called upon to heal the wounds of racism, violence, poverty, and environmental degradation that afflict us, both as individuals and as a nation, wounds that were re-opened and made worse over the past few months.

It is my heartfelt prayer that, with God's good help, we will all enter into that great work of healing by recalling our baptismal vows to "refuse to be mastered by sin" and affirming our commitment to serve the Lord in serving one another in faithfulness, compassion, and civility. Regardless of who our next President will be, we remain who we are: a people covenanted with the Lord our God to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

*Father, you have given all peoples one common origin, and your will is to gather them as one family in yourself. Fill the hearts of us all with the fire of your love, and the desire to ensure justice for all our brothers and sisters. By sharing the good things you give us may we secure justice and equality for every human being, an end to all division, and a human society built on love and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen***

(Novus Ordo, "For the Progress of Peoples")

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George R. Lucey, FCM".

Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop