

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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American National Catholic Church to Ordain Two to the Priesthood

Presiding Bishop George Lucey, FCM, and the American National Catholic Church (ANCC) are pleased to announce that Deacons Owen Borda and Cheryl Smith will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Presbyters on Saturday, January 18. The Mass of Ordination, to be celebrated by the Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM, will take place at 11 am at the parish church of St. Joseph Arimathea ANCC, 680 Racebrook Road, Orange CT.

Dr. Borda earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in music from Long Island University, a Master of Music from Kent State and holds a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies from the Union Institute and University. He is the founding member of the Order of Preachers American, college professor, public health professional, and pastoral musician. He currently serves as part-time faculty at Capella University and Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and former Program Director for Management Programs in the Center for Professional and International Studies of Keuka College. A professional musician, he has served as Director of Music at several prominent churches in the New York City Metropolitan Area.

He currently pastors the ANCC parish of St Dominic de Guzmán in Peekskill NY.

Deacon Smith is a licensed clinical social worker who received her Master's Degree in Social Work in 1989 from Southern Connecticut State University. Since then, she has dedicated her career to working with children and adolescents with complex trauma and significant behavioral and psychiatric challenges. She has primarily worked with youth in residential treatment settings and has been employed at The Children's Center of Hamden for the last 24 years, where she currently holds the position of Chief Operating Officer. She is very compassionate about her work and believes that the care of children who are suffering is a calling and ministry.

Deacon Smith serves the parish of St. Joseph of Arimathea. She will be the second woman to be ordained priest in the ANCC.

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 a host of ministries to the alienated, under-served, and forgotten. For more information, visit www.TheANCC.org.

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