



AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

June 17, 2020

Bishop George Lucey's response to the comments of Archbishop Jose Gomez regarding the Supreme Court's extending federal protection to LGBTQ

As Presiding Bishop of the American National Catholic Church, (www.TheANCC.org), I was unpleasantly surprised to read the comments by Archbishop Jose Gomez, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, criticizing and/or condemning the recent Supreme Court's decision on upholding Gay Rights and their acknowledgment of the rights of Gay people to full acceptance in the institutional life of American society. The Archbishop seems to be expressing a view contrary to the Catholic social teaching of Christ's preferential option for the poor and marginalized by suggesting that, as a Catholic prelate, he would exclude and condemn and marginalize gay/lesbian and transgender peoples.

The Archbishop in his comments expressed a view that could lead to our LGBTQ sister and brothers being seen as a threat rather than a gift to the Church, and equal members of the Body of Christ. His ideas contradict the Catholic Church's teaching on the radical inclusivity of Christ's command to love everyone as he loves us.

In fact in the lectionary for Mass during these weeks of ordinary times, we hear how Christ redefined love to go beyond the boundaries of prejudice and bias. As Christians and National Catholics, we strive to be inclusive as St. Paul instructs us. "In Christ, there are no social differences," (paraphrased).

I am reluctant, as an American National Catholic bishop to speak to the remarks by Archbishop Gomez of the Roman Catholic Church, and suspect that my voice will have little influence in inviting the Archbishop to remember as St. John tells us in his First Letter, "perfect love drives out all fear". There is nothing to be afraid of in lovingly embracing all of those who Christ embraces. We ask the Archbishop to come and pray with us at the American National Catholic Church to experience first hand, the love of Christ for ALL his people and the joy this brings to our congregants.

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

Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop