

16 February 2022

For further information, contact:
Fr. Kerry Walters, Vicar of Communications
kwalters@anccmail.org

The ANCC Welcomes St. Francis and Clare Parish and Frs. Joseph Spina and Vincent Treglio

The Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM, Presiding Bishop of the American National Catholic Church (ANCC) is delighted to announce that the parish of Sts. Francis and Clare has joined the ANCC family. Frs. Joseph Spina, OSF and Vincent Treglio, OSF, pastors of the parish, will incardinate in the ANCC.

Sts. Francis and Clare, located in Wilton Manors, Florida, is a vibrant parish with a history of nearly twenty years of serving the greater Fort Lauderdale community. One of the parish's unique features is ministering to the Humane Society of Broward County as well as to Holly Dogs, a rescue service for racetrack greyhounds. This ministry is also enhanced by association with the Miami Marlins' sponsorship of "Bark at the Park," an event in when fans bring their dogs to a game.

Father Joseph is originally from Brooklyn, New York, where he taught religion and social studies for over a decade in various junior high schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn. He was also the first male principal in the San Diego Diocese of an elementary academy which he led for three years as a Brother of Charity. Ordained as an Old Catholic priest, Fr. Joseph has been in south Florida since 1989 and is one of the founding pastors of Sts. Francis & Clare. Additionally, he is lead chaplain at Memorial-Pembroke Hospital and ministers in three retirement residences.

Fr. Vincent, a New Jersey native, began his life of service as an Alexian Brothers. After finishing college at Seton Hall University, he studied theology at Darlington Seminary. Joining the Benedictine Order he was ordained to the priesthood in 1978 after receiving an M.Div from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Fr. Vincent also holds an Ed.S. in Administration/Supervision from Seton Hall University.

After eight years at the St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown, New Jersey, he moved to the Diocese of Paterson where he worked in parishes and high schools until relocating to Florida in 1997 to work with Vitas Hospice. He has served as chaplain and Manager of Bereavement Services with Vitas for almost 17 years.

"We in the ANCC are overjoyed to have Sts. Francis and Clare as a faith community in the ANCC," commented Presiding Bishop Lucey. "We have had cordial and friendly relationships with the community since 2016, when I was invited to meet with the parish and clergy. After a period of discernment, the clergy and People of God of the community made the decision to join us, stating that our commitment to the reforms of Vatican Council II as lived out in our parishes is most closely aligned to their pastoral and theological practices. We welcome them home and pray God bring to completion this good work He has begun."

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.

END PRESS RELEASE