

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANCC Gathers for Clergy Retreat and Come and See Weekend

Please join the American National Catholic Church (ANCC) in prayer as 18 members of the clergy, our current seminarians, and 9 inquirers gather for a time of reflection in preparation for Advent on the weekend of November 17-19. The day will be directed by the Rev. Dr. Boon Lin Ngeo, a native of Malaysia and a minister of the Metropolitan Community Church.

The Rev. Dr. Ngeo holds a B.A. in sociology from Minnesota State University, a Master in Theological Studies from Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, and a Th.D. from Boston University. He is also A.B.D. in sociology from the State University of New York at Hunter College. A decorated journalist, the Rev. Dr. Ngeo has been on the forefront of sociological and theological reflection on LGBTQI+ issues for over thirty years. Author of more than thirty books and numerous articles, the Rev. Dr. Ngeo was the first openly gay minister in Malaysia, and was the first openly gay minister in Asia to earn a doctoral degree in theology. He has lectured and taught in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Malaysia, and has been instrumental in strengthening the members of the Christian LGBTQI+ community throughout Asia. His work has been covered by CNN and the New York Times, and he has been named one of the most inspiring LGBTQI+ leaders in the world by the Huffington Post. The Rev. Dr. Ngeo is currently an adjunct professor at Hunter College and at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City, NJ.

The Rev. Dr. Ngeo will lead attendees of the retreat in a discussion of Process Theology as it relates to the season of Advent.

In addition, according to The Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM, Presiding Bishop of the ANCC, vocation directors Frs. Don Simon and Paul Gulya will conduct a "Come and See Experience" for nine men and women who are inquiring about serving in ordained ministry with the ANCC.

During the gathering two of our seminarians, Mary Hurley and Cody Pucillo will be admitted to the Ministry of Acolyte, and Dr. Jim Conti will be admitted to the Ministry of Lector.

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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