



AMERICAN NATIONAL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**A Thanksgiving Letter from the Presiding Bishop of the
American National Catholic Church**

In the name of the Father and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

To the People of God, Seminarians, Inquirers, and Clergy of the American National Catholic Church,
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we gather in this season of Thanksgiving, I write to you with a heart full of gratitude for your unwavering dedication to proclaiming the extravagant and inclusive love of God through Jesus Christ. Truly, as St. Paul proclaimed, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (*2 Corinthians 9:15*). The gift of finding each other in a community of faith dedicated to witnessing to the values of the Kingdom.

Each of you—whether you serve as clergy, are discerning a call to ministry, or live out your faith as laity—plays an integral role in the mission of the ANCC. Your prayers, service, and support have been invaluable in making our Church a beacon of God's love and compassion in the world. Through your commitment, you embody the call to love one another and extend Christ's welcome to all into the experience of God's love at the heart of our Catholic faith.

On this Thanksgiving Day, let us join together in a spirit of profound gratitude for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us: the gift of our faith, the bonds of our community, and the privilege to serve as St. Teresa of Avila reminds us, as His hands and feet in the world.

I invite you to celebrate this gratitude with us by joining our Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday, November 28 at 10:00 A.M. at the Cathedral Parish of St. Francis of Assisi. The service will be live-streamed on www.Facebook.com/stfrancisnj. Together, let us offer our thanks and consecrate this day to God with prayer and joy.

Let us also reflect on the inspiring words of St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, who reminds us that, "Gratitude is the memory of the heart." May this truth guide us as we remember and cherish the graces we have received. May this gratitude which inflames our hearts help us to persevere in generous service to all we meet.

Let us pray:

*Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love,
Please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of
giving thanks.*

*Thank you for all the graces and blessings You have bestowed upon us, both
spiritual and temporal: our faith and religious heritage, our food and shelter,*

our health, the love we share with one another, and the gift of our family and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessings throughout the coming year.

This we ask in the Name of Jesus, Your Son and our Brother. Amen.

May the peace of Christ fill your hearts this Thanksgiving, and may our shared gratitude strengthen our bond as the Body of Christ.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop
American National Catholic Church