



AMERICAN NATIONAL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

November 7, 2014

Memorial of Saint Willibrord, Bishop and Missionary

*Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others. If you are a speaker, speak in words which seem to come from God; if you are a helper, help as though every action was done at God's orders; so that in everything God may receive the glory, through Jesus Christ, since to him alone belong all glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.*

- 1 Peter 4:10-11

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

By now, most of us know that the people of our nation have elected a new president, and some are celebrating this moment while others feel profound disappointment. Perhaps you woke this morning with mixed feelings of hope, relief, or even sadness. Regardless of how you are experiencing this transition, I invite you to remember the timeless words of the prophet Micah: "Seek justice. Love mercy. Walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

In times of change and uncertainty, we have the blessing of anchoring ourselves in a calling that never wavers. After all elections - indeed at all times, our mission as followers of Christ remains clear and constant. We are called to be peacemakers, to comfort the sorrowful, and to stand beside the vulnerable. The path of justice, mercy, and humility in the service of God is not shaped by any one leader but by Christ, who reigns in our hearts and in the life of our Church.

We acknowledge, too, that in this time of polarization, half of our nation's citizens are feeling grief and loss, and perhaps a sense of hopelessness. As we recognize these emotions, we especially remember our immigrant brothers and sisters and all marginalized communities, whose lives may be profoundly affected by the direction our new administration will take. Let us keep them close in our hearts, praying and working to protect their dignity and well-being.

As followers of Jesus of Nazareth, let us now look beyond the election and ask how we might rediscover the beauty of our shared humanity. In Christ's name, let us model kindness and patience, choosing to see one another as neighbors, even amid deep

differences. May we be a light of peace and hope in this time, demonstrating to the world that our faith binds us together in love stronger than any political divide.

I invite you to join me in prayer for all those who have been elected to office, for our country, and for all who call this land home. Together, let us continue the holy work entrusted to us: to seek God's justice, to be merciful, and to humbly walk in the way of Christ.

Peace and blessings,

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