



AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

May 9, 2025

Rev. Fr. Anthony Testa's Resignation Announcement

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand."

— John 10:27-29

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

With deep gratitude and in a spirit of thanksgiving, I write to share the news that we have accepted the resignation of Fr. Anthony Testa as founding pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe American National Catholic Church in Long Branch, New Jersey.

Fr. Tony has served with extraordinary faithfulness and courage, guiding the parish community in its journey to find a Catholic home within the American National Catholic Church. Through his steadfast leadership and pastoral care, he helped establish a vibrant and welcoming parish that reflects the love and inclusiveness of Christ.

We are especially grateful for Fr. Tony's mentoring of Fr. Andres DeLeon, who will now assume the role of pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In his letter of gratitude, Fr. Tony writes:

"It has been an honor for me to serve the people and to be a part of the ANCC. Your guidance and leadership have been outstanding and have helped to make Our Lady of Guadalupe the wonderful parish that it is. I know the people love you for all that you have done and will continue to do. And I personally thank you for your constant support and encouragement. May God continue to bless you and the good work you do."

I echo Fr. Tony's words of thanks and extend my heartfelt appreciation to the People of God and to the clergy of the ANCC for your ongoing prayerful support of all our parishes and ministries.

As Fr. Tony enters retirement, we send him forth with our love and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

We will bid farewell to Fr. Tony, and I will install Fr. Andres DeLeon as pastor with a Mass of Installation on Saturday, July 19th at 11:00 AM at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. All are warmly invited to attend as we celebrate this transition—offering our thanks to Fr. Tony and welcoming Fr. Andres with joy and hope. The ANCC clergy are invited to con-celebrate and vest in ANCC vestments.

In Christ's Peace,

Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop