



AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

BISHOP LUCEY RESPONDS TO INJUNCTION BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY ON THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OF WOMAN RELIGIOUS

(April 24, 2012) In a spirit of solidarity and prayer, the American National Catholic Church extends itself to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) at this challenging moment in its exemplary history. As the representative of over 85% of all U.S. Roman Catholic consecrated women, our hearts go out to the Conference as they consider the Vatican's decision to appoint Seattle Archbishop Peter Sartrain as LCWR's official overseer for a five-year period.

This hard-handed response was a clear reprisal based on the Vatican's four-year doctrinal assessment of the Conference. We find this action deeply troubling. We join in support along with so many other religious communities as the leadership of the LCWR deliberates an appropriate collective response to this disturbing news.

The role of women religious in the life of the Church and the U.S. is well known. Through a myriad of congregations and communities, hundreds of thousands of amazing women have tirelessly borne witness to the love of Christ. From founding hospitals and institutions of higher learning to homeless shelters and community outreach programs, LCWR members represent the very best of Catholic social justice teaching.

It is our prayer that the love and care they have so lavishly shared with so many will now be poured out on them. As an alternative to the hierarchical and male-dominated Roman Church, we of the American National Catholic Church stand firmly in solidarity with our sisters in Christ.

The American National Catholic Church is a Catholic community outside of the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to making the world a more caring place. Guided by a presiding bishop, the church celebrates the same sacraments as the Roman Church and follows the spirit of reform initiated by the Second Vatican Council. The Church has parishes across the U.S. and a host of ministries to the alienated, underserved, and forgotten. For more information visit www.TheANCC.org.

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