



AMERICAN NATIONAL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

BISHOP LUCEY RELEASES CHRISTMAS 2011 PASTORAL GREETING

“This is what God wants,
to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.
(Micah 6:8)

“I was a stranger, and you welcomed me”
(Matthew 25: 35b)

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

Grace and peace at Christmas!

At this wonderful time of birth and renewal, we remind ourselves that the coming of the Savior long foretold by the prophets is finally among us. The prophet Micah challenges us to remember that with God’s coming we are asked *to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God*; Matthew takes up the challenge by inviting us to welcome the stranger in Christ’s name. The consequence of the Incarnation – the in-break of God into our lives – is that we are no longer strangers to each other.

Jesus reconciles us to the Father (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:19), making God our common Father and each of us brothers and sisters. This new relationship calls us out of ourselves. We become brothers and sisters responsible for one other. In no uncertain terms, the great judgment scene in Matthew makes clear that God has taken on skin and suffers with us.

We recall Mary’s *yes* to God, and her total act of faith. Mary’s faith is a faith opened to truth, no matter what the consequences, no matter where it leads. Little did she realize that the child she held in her arms at his birth would be the man at whose cross she would one day stand.

We remind ourselves of the words of 12th century Dominican mystic Meister Eckhart, “*We are all meant to be mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born.*” God gave us his flesh and we become the flesh of God.

The parishioners, seminarians and clergy of the American National Catholic Church join me in sending you the warmest wishes at Christmas. As always, you are held warmly in our prayers.

Given under my signature, Christmas 2011 during the forth year of my Episcopacy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "+ George R. Lucey, FCM". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop

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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