



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sarasota Group Forming Contemporary, All-Inclusive Catholic Community Planning Meeting 2/25/2012 – All Are Welcome

On February 25, 2012 from 9 a.m. to Noon, an initial planning meeting will be held to discuss the formation of St. Phoebe by the Sea as an American National Catholic Church (ANCC) in Sarasota. The Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM, presiding bishop will be available to talk about the ANCC and participate in a community discussion regarding a proposed ANCC parish in Sarasota. Bishop Lucey will also celebrate Eucharist.

The meeting will be held at 3651 Kingston Blvd, Sarasota, FL. Those interested in attending should RSVP to 941-228-7551 or email to info@stphoebe.org. All are welcome.

“We are seeking to form a Sarasota faith-community, while remaining distinctly Catholic, where all are welcome especially those who have been injured or abandoned by the institutional church” stated convening chairperson and Sarasota resident Ed DeMarco. “We are delighted to begin a conversation with the American National Catholic Church and have Bishop Lucey participate personally in our first planning meeting.”

“As presiding bishop, we are honored to discern with the Sarasota community the call of God,” stated Bishop Lucey. “In each age and to every heart, the presence of God is calling us to action. I am delighted to participate in a discussion regarding a Sarasota American National Catholic community.”

The American National Catholic Church is a Catholic community outside of the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to making the world a more caring place. The church celebrates the same sacraments as the Roman Church and follows the spirit of reform initiated by the Second Vatican Council. The ANCC is built on Christ's ethic of inclusion. All are welcome to the Sacraments. The ANCC has parishes across the U.S. and a host of ministries to the alienated, underserved, and forgotten.

St. Phoebe by the Sea will be a new parish in the Sarasota community for contemporary Catholics to celebrate valid Catholic sacraments and follow the true spirit of reform of the Second Vatican Council; celebrate God's all-embracing love; form our children in the love of Christ, reach out to our neighbors; and build the kingdom of God.

When Ed DeMarco was asked why the church will be named after Saint Phoebe, he responded, "Saint Phoebe was from the city of Corinth, a community on the sea like Sarasota. Saint Phoebe was filled with the Spirit, worked to create, teach and inspire new church communities to help spread Christ's message. She was a church deacon, a sister in Christ and patroness of Paul, a messenger who delivered Paul's letter to the Romans, and a martyr for her faith. She seems a perfect patron saint for this new parish community."

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