



AMERICAN NATIONAL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Presiding Bishop's Pastoral Letter to LGBT Catholics

It is with great pastoral concern that The American National Catholic Church (ANCC) comments on the decision by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston to cancel an "All Are Welcomed" parish mass as part of Boston's annual celebration of gay pride. Further, statements by archdiocesan officials that cancellation of the mass was a firm indication that the Roman Catholic Church in no way sanctions a celebration of gay pride are equally troubling.

We find the actions by the archdiocese contrary to the all-inclusive message of the Gospel. To our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Roman Catholic brothers and sisters, we send a heartfelt message of hope, love, and support. The message of the Gospel is unambiguous and clear: you are made in the wonderful likeness of God and joined inextricably to the Body of Christ. As such, we joyfully recall the words of St. Paul to the Galatians, "in Christ, there is no Jew or Greek, male or female, slave or free, but all are one in him." We of the ANCC join you in celebrating your wonderful gifts and assure you that you are full embraced, exactly as you are by a loving and welcoming God.

Further, we state that the Roman Catholic Church is but one expression of Catholicism. We of the American National Catholic Church invite our Roman Catholic gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered brothers and sisters to consider us as a option to the exclusion you face by the Roman Church's rarified understanding of human sexuality and mistaken interpretation of Sacred Scripture.

Warm wishes during Gay Pride and throughout the year. With prayerful best wishes and intentions for you, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George R. Lucey, FCM".

Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM  
Presiding Bishop