



AMERICAN NATIONAL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **American National Catholic Church Announces New Ministry to the Sick and Terminally Ill in Northern Virginia.**

The American National Catholic Church is pleased to announce the opening of the Friar Mychal Judge Pastoral Center in Northern Virginia. Through pastoral visits, an online prayer forum, and wake and funeral services, the ministry is an outreach to the sick and the terminally ill ([www.FriarJudge.org](http://www.FriarJudge.org)).

The Center is named after Franciscan priest, Father Mychal Judge who died while offering prayer and comfort to injured New York City firefighters inside the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. He became the first officially-recorded fatality following the attack.

The Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM, presiding bishop of the American National Catholic Church commented that this outreach to the sick is most appropriately named after Fr. Mychal. "As fellow Franciscans, we find in Fr. Mychal a contemporary priest who while wrestling with his own private challenges touched others in a profound and Christ-like way. We know that the spirit of 'The Saint of 9/11' will guide this new ministry."

"For me, this is natural extension of three decades in healthcare," stated Deacon Bill Freeman the new coordinator of the Center. "In the spirit of Fr. Mychal, the Center is committed to a meaningful outreach to the sick, their families, friends and caregivers. We are honored to do this work as a living testament to Fr. Mychal."

The Center is a partnership with the American National Catholic Church's newest parish, St. Anthony of Padua in Fairfax Virginia. Fr. Jason R. Lody, FCM, pastor of St. Anthony's commented on the perfect timing of the launch. "What better occasion to begin a ministry of compassion than on the feast day of Fr. Mychal, a perfect example of contemporary sainthood."

The American National Catholic Church (ANCC) is a Catholic community outside of the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to making the world a more caring place. Guide by a Presiding Bishop, the ANCC 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](http://www.TheANCC.org).

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