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CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESS RELEASE

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National Catholics Welcome Philadelphia Priest

PHILADELPHIA - The American National Catholic Church (ANCC) has announced the incardination of Rev. Phyllis McHugh (Mother Phyllis) as a priest of the church. Through this incardination, the process by which a priest moves to a new diocese or jurisdiction, Rev. McHugh becomes the first female priest to minister within the jurisdiction.

“I have watched the work of the ANCC with great interest and have been impressed by the quality of their ministries and intentional growth.” said Rev. McHugh, “As I was exploring my options to minister in the greater Philadelphia area, I felt that the ANCC would be a wonderful partner in providing an alternative for our community.”

“We are overjoyed to begin ministering to the people of my home town of Philadelphia,” stated Bishop George R. Lucey, FCM, the presiding bishop of the ANCC. “This area has experienced so much hurt and broken trust. I pray that we may provide a place of safe harbor to those who have left the church.”

Mother Phyllis was born and raised in Philadelphia—a cradle Roman Catholic. She spent 10 years as a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth and taught at both the elementary and secondary levels. Mother received her bachelor degree from Holy Family College and after leaving the convent, continued to work as a teacher. She met and married her husband, Chris. This year they celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary. She is the mother of one son and a very proud grandmother of two boys. Over the years, Mother Phyllis was heavily involved in lay parish ministry, which led her to study for a Masters degree at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. There she majored in Systematic Theology and minored in Liturgy.

After years of soul-searching, Mother left the Roman Catholic church and became involved in the Independent Catholic movement. She was ordained to the priesthood in May of 2011.

As with all ANCC priests, Mother has a day job working in IT tech support. In her spare time, Mother enjoys reading, playing the oboe and listening to music.

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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