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PRESS RELEASE

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National Catholics to Launch Philadelphia Parish

PHILADELPHIA - The American National Catholic Church (ANCC) has announced the launch of its first parish in Pennsylvania. The parish, St. Thomas More American National Catholic Church, will be pastored by Rev. Phyllis McHugh (Mother Phyllis), a priest who recently incardinated into the church. Rev. McHugh is the first female priest to minister within the jurisdiction.

“I am thrilled to help bring the American National Catholic Church to our community,” said Rev. McHugh, “Throughout a life of service to the Church, I have witnessed countless individuals who have kept their faith and left the Church. I hope to help create a warm, welcoming and authentic alternative that brings these people back to the faith they love.”

“I am confident the people of Philadelphia and surrounding communities will find a welcoming home at St. Thomas More ANCC under the leadership of Mother Phyllis McHugh,” stated Bishop George R. Lucey, FCM, the presiding bishop of the ANCC. “Her presence is a great gift to the ANCC and will be a true treasure for my home town.”

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.

The first liturgy will be held on Saturday, September, 8th at 5:00 PM. The church is in residence at St. Paul's Episcopal Church located at 7809 Old York Rd., Elkins Park, PA. The parish has launched a website which can be found at www.StThomasMoreANCC.org.

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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