



## AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 21, 2013

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### **ANCC Responds to Roman Catholic Bishop's "Exorcism" of Illinois' Marriage Equality Act**

On behalf of the clergy and people of the American National Catholic Church, the Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM, Presiding Bishop, expressed regret at the decision of Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas Paprocki to perform a public exorcism in response to the enactment of a marriage equality law in Illinois. Illinois becomes the sixteenth state to recognize same-sex marriage.

Ignoring a petition signed by 15,000 Christians urging him to reconsider, Paprocki performed the exorcism, which he claimed was "in reparation" for the "grave sin" of marriage equality, on November 20. During the ceremony, he solemnly intoned "Be gone Satan, father of lies, enemy of human salvation."

Presiding Bishop Lucey stated that "while the ANCC respects the Roman bishop's right to speak to the issue of same-sex marriage, we would like the people of Illinois to know that he does not speak for all Catholics and that there is a Catholic community which feels very differently."

Bishop Lucey pointed out that same-sex marriages are perfectly compatible with the Gospel's understanding of marriage and family relations as based on "mutual care and respect for one another's humanity." The ANCC joyfully offers the sacrament of marriage to any committed and loving couple who requests it.

In contrast to Bishop Paprocki's exorcism, Bishop Lucey, with the full concordance of the clergy and people of the ANCC, extends his congratulations and blessing to Illinois' same-sex couples and his gratitude to the Illinois legislators who voted for the state's marriage equality act.

The American National Catholic Church is an inclusive Catholic community independent of the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to making the world a more caring place. Guided 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. Although sharing core theological and liturgical practices with Roman Catholicism, the ANCC differs on several major points, such

as married clergy, female priests, divorce and re-marriage, same-sex marriage, and lay leadership. The Church has parishes across the U.S. and a host of ministries to the alienated, under-served, and forgotten. For more information, visit [www.TheANCC.org](http://www.TheANCC.org).

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