



AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the present state of affairs, out of which there is arising a new situation for humanity the Church, being the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. Matt. 5:13-14), is more urgently called upon to save and renew every creature, that all things may be restored in Christ and all may constitute one family in Him and one people of God.

-Preface to the Decree Ad Gentes of Vatican Council II

+In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Peace and Apostolic Blessings!

The Church Universal celebrates the great feast of Pentecost this Sunday, and I thought that the above quote from *Ad Gentes* (To All the World) might provide us in the American National Catholic Church some encouragement in this our fifth year of ministry to the People of God in the United States. The Decree outlines the principles of missionary activity of the Church and calls all the faithful to participate in the proclamation of the reign of Christ in the world and to prepare the way for his coming again in glory. The American National Catholic Church joins in this exhortation to evangelize the world, and rejoices at Pentecost that we, too, are called, with great courage, to continue the mission of the Church to go out and “baptize all nations in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

We involve ourselves in the mission of the Universal Church to go and make disciples of all nations, and we give thanks to God this Pentecost for the gifts he has poured out on the American National Catholic Church. At Pentecost the Apostles, imbued with the gifts of the Spirit, proclaimed the manifestation of the love of God made manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. We are told that all who were in Jerusalem from foreign places heard the disciples in their own language, evidence that the love of God needs no translation. We in the ANCC have taken up this message of God’s extravagant love and proclaim that all are welcomed to full participation in the life of the Church, founded by the Blood and Water which flowed from the side of Christ on Calvary, and stirred up by the Spirit of God on Pentecost.

We see how this living Spirit of God has breathed the ANCC into life five years ago. We listened to the whispers of the Holy Spirit and followed the promptings of that same Spirit present at Vatican Council-II. We began to pray for guidance and soon our prayers brought others to us and we

began to see the fruits of the Spirit in the growing ministries, rooted in the command of Christ to love one another as he loves us. This feast of Pentecost we give thanks to God for the grace given us to hear the Spirit calling us to participate in renewing the Church by proclaiming the message of Christ's love in the heart of the Church Catholic.

Our understanding of our role in the new evangelization has guided us in opening substantive dialogue with other Christian denominations, which has resulted in real ecumenical partnerships. This understanding of our mission has led us to build Eucharistic communities centered around the gift of God's self to us, offer sacramental and pastoral care ministries to all who sincerely ask for them, and provide the sacraments of the Church in prisons, psychiatric hospitals, nursing home, Alzheimer's care units, and hospices. We have buried the dead with dignity, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and welcomed the saint and the sinner to full participation in the community of faith, the Church. We have opened the arms of the Church to those who had despaired and thought themselves outside the embrace of Mother Church, we have proclaimed the truth of God's all inclusive love that has always characterized the Catholic Church.

We have done all of this through the generous grace of God and by maintaining our Catholic identity. Let us give thanks to God this Pentecost for the manifold gifts, and ask God to keep us open to the promptings and whispers of the Holy Spirit as we continue to take up the work of the Church to "Go out and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Given under my Seal and signature this Feast of Pentecost. June 8, 2014. In the sixth year of my Episcopacy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George R. Lucey, FCM". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop