



## AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **American National Catholic Church Condemns Religious Persecution**

The American National Catholic Church (ANCC) joins people of good will everywhere in condemning the ongoing persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq and Syria. Mass executions by beheading, and crucifixion, torture, forced conversion, kidnapping, and exile have become the deplorable order of the day in these beleaguered nations.

The Most Reverend George M. Lucey, FCM, Presiding Bishop of the ANCC, notes that Catholic ethical teaching is based on the presumption that human beings possess natural rights, and that one of them, also recognized by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human rights, is the right to freedom of religion and belief. In persecuting Christians and other minorities because of their faith, Islamic jihadists violate both God's law and a moral principle endorsed by the international community.

The ANCC urges the government and people of the United States to open their hearts and homes to refugees fleeing from religious persecution in Iraq, Syria, and many other places around the globe.

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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