



AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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American National Catholic Church Hopeful about Synod on the Family

The American National Catholic Church (ANCC) welcomes the shift in tone about gays and divorced people coming out of the current Roman Catholic Synod on the Family, the two-week conference called by Pope Francis to discuss topics such as marriage, divorce, and cohabitation.

Although no final document has been produced yet, the Synod's recognition that gays possess gifts valuable to the church, that their relationships offer them genuinely "precious" support, and that divorced couples should be welcomed by the church, are promising steps away from the church's traditional insistence that homosexuality is "intrinsic disordered" and that divorced persons and cohabitating couples should not receive communion.

ANCC Presiding Bishop George Lucey, FCM, said "we give thanks to God for our Roman brothers and sisters as they continue the dialogue of Vatican Council-II." He noted that an embrace of gays and divorced persons is an integral part of "the lived experience of the ANCC."

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.