

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Rev. Kerry Walters, Vicar of Communications
(570) 522-0514
kwalters@anccmail.org

American National Catholic Church Welcomes Three Priests

The Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM, Presiding Bishop of the American National Catholic Church, joyfully welcomes Frs. Louie Amezaga, Robert Blattner, and Peter Sanchez as the newest clergy to join the ANCC.

Fr. Louie serves as associate pastor of Holy Family ANCC in Las Cruces, NM. Since leaving the Roman Church in 1999, he has taught math and science in Texas and New Mexico. Fr. Louie brings to the ANCC experiences with Franciscan University of Steubenville, The Word of God community in Ann Arbor, Michigan and the Benedictine-run St. Meinrad School of Theology. "I have gained a great appreciation for what makes all Christians one in Christ," he says. "I have a great desire to see all Christians live and interact in mutual love and respect, recognizing our common heritage in Christ."

Father Robert pastors Resurrection of Christ ANCC in St. Louis, MO. Prior to leaving the Roman Church, he was a member of the OFM Franciscan Order for nearly two decades. The father of three grown children and two granddaughters, Fr. Robert says that he loves being "a priest, father, and grandpa."

Fr. Peter is co-pastor of St. Mary's ANCC in Fort Lauderdale, FL, and a solemnly vowed brother in the Franciscan Community of Mercy, the religious order associated with the ANCC. A medical doctor who specializes in psychiatry, Fr. Peter was born in Cuba, and raised in New York and New Jersey, but has lived in Florida most of his life. The holder of several earned degrees, he is currently training in spiritual direction. "Studying is something which I love, especially about mystics such as Francis, Clare, Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross who have been great examples of perseverance in prayer. As I continue my journey with the ANCC, my search for knowledge and a closer union with the Beloved continues."

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 offers a host of ministries to the alienated, under-served, and forgotten. For more information, visit www.TheANCC.org.

