

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New American National Catholic Church Parish in Ocean County, NJ

The American National Catholic Church (ANCC) joyfully announces the establishment of a new parish community, Good Shepherd, in Ocean County, New Jersey. The parish, located in Toms River Township, is shepherded by Fr. Anthony Lipari, FCM.

Father Anthony was ordained to the priesthood over 25 years ago. He is a Franciscan friar who holds master's degrees in education and theology as well as a doctorate in pastoral ministry.

His mission as a priest, he says, is "to reach out to the grieving and bereaved by providing services, celebrations of life, counseling, and support groups." He emphasizes that "All are welcome!" at Good Shepherd, especially "the alienated and disenfranchised, as well as strayed and hurt Roman Catholics who want to continue their Catholic faith" but can't subscribe to the Roman church's rules, regulations, and stigmas. But, Father Anthony points out, Good Shepherd's doors are open to "singles, married, divorcees, straight, gay, young and old, Latinos, Asians, blacks, and white." No one is excluded.

Over twenty persons enthusiastically joined Fr. Anthony at Good Shepherd's first celebration of Mass on 1 March 2015.

ANCC Presiding Bishop George Lucey, FCM, expressed excitement about the formation of Good Shepherd, the fourth ANCC parish in New Jersey. He sees the Toms River parish as "a tremendous blessing from God. Fr. Anthony's passion and excitement will help create a very vibrant and faith-filled ANCC community."

The American National Catholic Church is an inclusive Catholic community independent of the Roman Catholic Church whose parishes stretch from New Mexico to the East Coast. 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.

