

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American National Catholic Church Statement on S.C. Church Shooting

Violence has once again struck the nation, this time in a gathering where Christians were studying God's word and praying. Just when it seemed as if the post-Ferguson country was finally beginning to acknowledge the harsh reality of white assaults against people of color, another hate-fueled tragedy occurs.

Addressing the shooting at Charleston's Mother Emanuel AME Church, the Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM, Presiding Bishop of the American National Catholic Church, says: "We, the people and clergy of the ANCC along with all people of faith, are praying for the victims and families of this senseless tragedy, and are reminded by Pope Francis 'Even today we raise our hand against our brother... We have perfected our weapons, our conscience has fallen asleep, and we have sharpened our ideas to justify ourselves as if it were normal we continue to sow destruction, pain, death. Violence and war lead only to death.' We pray for an end to destruction, pain and death."

May the horror of this latest death-dealing hate crime encourage the People of God, regardless of their faith tradition, to renounce violence and work for justice in the land.