

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American National Catholic Church Laments the Orlando Mass Shooting

The people and clergy of the American National Catholic Church (ANCC) join all people of good will in expressing deep and heartfelt grief at the murders committed in Orlando, Florida. Taking the lives of 50 people and wounding 53 more, it is the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.

The tragedy is especially deplorable because the targeted audience consisted of our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender sisters and brothers, a group historically vulnerable to violence and recrimination.

The murderer, apparently an ISIS-sympathizer, used a powerful assault rifle to commit the carnage. His choice of weapon, one which past perpetrators of mass shootings have likewise favored, once again demonstrates the need for more rigorous laws regulating the sale of firearms, particularly automatic and assault rifles.

In response to this latest tragic outburst of violence in the United States, ANCC Presiding Bishop George Lucey, FCM, said: "These senseless acts of violence seem endless. When will we learn that antilocution always ends in violence? As people of faith we pray, yet again, for the victims of this mass shooting. Further, our faith requires us to cry 'enough!', and now are challenged not simply to cry to heaven with our prayers, but to join others of good will in acting to put an end to this violence. We can no longer condone the exhortations of fear and hate in the persons of those who want to divide us; we can no longer stand idly by when our sisters and brothers are denigrated because of their difference. May God direct our steps in ways of peace and justice."

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.