

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American National Catholic Church Statement on Louisiana Flood

The people and clergy of the American National Catholic Church (ANCC) join all persons of good will in expressing deep and heartfelt grief at the loss of life and property, and the disruption of lives, caused by the recent catastrophic flooding in parts of Louisiana.

Parishes around Baton Rouge received an extraordinary 6,900,000,000,000 gallons of rain in a single week, displacing some 30,000 people, damaging or destroying 40,000 homes and businesses, and taking at least 13 lives. The Red Cross calls this the worst natural disaster to hit the United States since 2012's Hurricane Sandy.

In response to this tragedy, ANCC Presiding Bishop George Lucey, FCM, offered this prayer from Catholic Relief Services.

Compassionate Lord, we pray for those who have been devastated by recent natural disasters. We remember those who have lost their lives so suddenly. We hold in our hearts the families forever changed by grief and loss. Bring them consolation and comfort. Surround them with our prayers for strength. Bless those who have survived and heal their memories of trauma and devastation. May they have the courage to face the long road of rebuilding ahead.

We ask your blessing on all those who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their security and their hope. Bless the work of relief agencies and those providing emergency assistance. May their work be guided by the grace and strength that comes from You alone.

*Help us to respond with generosity in prayer, in assistance, in aid to the best of our abilities. Keep our hearts focused on the needs of those affected, even after the crisis is over. We ask this in Jesus' name,
Amen.*

The ANCC encourages its members to consider donating funds, goods, and/or time to ease the burden of suffering endured by the victims of this latest disaster to strike our sisters and brothers in Louisiana.

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.