

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2017

Contact: Rev. Kerry Walters, Vicar of Communications

570 522-0514 kwalters@anccmail.org

American National Catholic Church Ordains John Bye-Torre

The American National Catholic Church (ANCC) is pleased to announce that Deacon John Bye-Torre, FCM, was ordained to the Sacred Order of Presbyters on Saturday, April 22, in Seattle, Washington. The Mass of Ordination was celebrated by the Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM, Presiding Bishop of the ANCC. Fathers Jim Lehman (Holy Family ANCC, Las Cruces, NM) and Oscar Geety (St. Francis of Assisi ANCC, Glen Ridge, NJ), as well as Deacon Pat Kane (St. Francis of Assisi ANCC) and diaconal candidate Don Simon (St. Odilia ANCC, Fargo ND) were also in attendance.

Fr. John will continue serving Seattle's St. Stephen's ANCC parish, which he founded.

Speaking of the event, Bishop Lucey said: "With great joy the American National Catholic Church celebrates the ordination of Rev. John Bye-Torre. We are aware that this celebration of John's ordination during the Easter season is yet another grace flowing from the Resurrection and evidence of the Body of Christ alive in our world. The ANCC is particularly excited about St. Stephen's in Seattle as there are no other alternatives for Catholics in the city and St. Stephen's represents a great evangelical witness for us there."



Ordained to the Diaconate in February 2015, Deacon Bye-Torre is a professed friar in the Franciscan Community of Mercy. A Licensed Mental Health Counselor with earned graduate degrees in counseling and administration, Deacon Bye-Torre works in both private practice and with military service members and their families.

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.

PHOTO CAPTION: Fr. John Bye-Torre, FCM (left) and ANCC Presiding Bishop George M. Lucey, FCM