

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**American National Catholic Church Welcomes Fr. Anthony Martinez**

The Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM, Presiding Bishop of the American National Catholic Church (ANCC), joyfully welcomes Fr. Anthony (Tony) Leonard Martinez as the latest priest to incardinate with the ANCC.

Fr. Tony, a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, studied at the College of Sante Fe before continuing his education at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in 1989. Over the following 15 years, he served in a number of ministerial capacities: parish pastor, military chaplain, director of the permanent diaconate program, spiritual director, and college instructor. He requested and was granted a leave of absence in 2004.

Resuming active parish ministry in 2013, Fr. Tony currently serves as assistant pastor at Holy Family ANCC in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

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](http://www.TheANCC.org).