



AMERICAN NATIONAL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2013

CONTACT: Reverend Matthew Bailey, FCM—Vicar General
(203) 903-ANCC (2622)
mbailey@anccmail.org

Rev. John M. Mollish named Vicar for Ecumenism in the American National Catholic Church

The Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM, Presiding Bishop of the American National Catholic Church (ANCC), is delighted to announce the appointment of Rev. John M. Mollish as the ANCC Vicar for Ecumenism.

As Vicar for Ecumenism, Rev. Mollish's focus will be on creating an ecumenical dimension for the ANCC. He plans to study the common bonds shared with other Christian Churches in order to enlighten and strengthen the ANCC in the perennial renewal of its vision and mission. In time, he will include the common spiritual bonds shared with non-Christian faiths.

Rev. Mollish will explore the beliefs and traditions of other Christian communions, their theology, their approach to prayer and worship, and their pastoral and social outreach programs. "Much can be learned from engagement and dialogue with other traditions," he noted. "To this end, I hope to serve on several ecumenical committees of the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) and the National Council of Churches (NCC)."

His role as Vicar for Ecumenism, Rev. Mollish believes, "will deepen the ANCC's understanding of Christian Unity. It is important to the spiritual health of ANCC members to grow in the recognition of their shared humanity with other Christians, as well as in the common call to follow the Lord, Jesus Christ, aware of his desire that we should love one another as he has loved us."

The American National Catholic Church, an inclusive Catholic community independent of the Roman Catholic Church, is 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.

#####