



## AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **American National Catholic Church to Ordain Two Deacons**

**The American National Catholic Church (ANCC) is pleased to announce that Mr. Stephen Rekar and Mr. William Wambaugh will be ordained to the Order of Sacred Deacon on May 10, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. in the afternoon.**

**Mr. Rekar, a licensed professional counselor and former high school teacher, is a Chicago resident. A past member of the Congregation of the Mission and seminarian for the Roman Catholic Chicago Archdiocese, he studied philosophy and art as an undergraduate before earning graduate degrees in divinity and clinical psychology.**

**“The call for me to serve in the ANCC is its vision that the Table of the Lord is open to all in love and respect,” says Mr. Rekar. “Its strong Catholicity and continuation of the Vatican II spirit grounds the ANCC mission to preach the Gospel and serve others without distinction. The Christ-centered charisma of charity and inclusion in the midst of the reality of our life and times seems to me to be prophetic.”**

**Mr. Wambaugh, a native of Detroit, recently earned a master’s degree in moral theology from St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, CA, and soon begins doctoral studies at Graduate Theological Foundation. A pipe fitter for twenty-five years, he entered a period of discernment following a serious accident and discovered a call to the priesthood in order to serve the poor and the vulnerable.**

**Speaking of his decision to enter the ANCC, Mr. Wambaugh says, “I discovered a more Christ-like model of a loving and welcoming Church focused on equal rights to participate in cultural, economic, social, spiritual and political life.”**

**Following their ordinations, Mr. Rekar will work to form an ANCC Eucharistic community in Chicago, and Mr. Wambaugh will work to establish the Solanus Casey House in Marquette, MI. Solanus Casey, an American Capuchin friar who once said, “Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks,” has been an inspiration for Mr. Wambaugh.**

**Presiding Bishop George R. Lucey, FCM, expresses his joy and gratitude that God has so blessed the ANCC with the gifts the two new transitional deacons bring to the Church. “These two men could have gone anywhere to serve God’s Church. They had prepared for ordination in the Roman Catholic Church, and their sense of integrity has led them to the courageous decision to hear God’s call to the ANCC. We are overjoyed.”**

**The ordinations will take place at St. Francis of Assisi American National Catholic parish, the Cathedral parish of the ANCC. A reception will follow on the front lawn of the parish. ANCC clergy are invited to join and vest in the chasuble of the ANCC.**

**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).**

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