



AMERICAN NATIONAL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 18, 2024

Feast of Saint Luke, Evangelist

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many."

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

- 1 Corinthians 12:13

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

I write to you today as we prepare to exercise one of our most significant privileges and responsibilities as citizens of the United States of America. As Catholics, our consciences are shaped and informed by the person of Jesus Christ. Our relationship with Him is rooted in our experience of His compassion, forgiveness, and mercy. We follow a Savior who has a preferential option for the poor and marginalized. In a time of growing political division, it is often the poor and vulnerable who suffer the most—whether through economic injustice, lack of access to basic services, or through scapegoating and demonization. As followers of Christ, we are called to prioritize their needs and to recognize the face of Christ in them (Matthew 25:40).

As a Christian community, our baptismal covenant reminds us that we are called to be prophets in our own time. Our faith serves as a guide in navigating these challenging times in our country. By grounding our political understanding in the tenets of our faith, as outlined in Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching, we can make informed decisions about our social responsibilities to one another.

Our response to the increasing levels of division, conflict, and even violence in society must be as peacemakers. This means engaging in respectful dialogue, especially with those we disagree with, and remembering that God loves them as much as He loves us. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus blesses those who work for peace, calling them "children of God" (Matthew 5:9). Peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of justice, mercy, and love. As the Body of Christ, we are called to act peacefully and invite others, by our example, to safely engage in the political process.

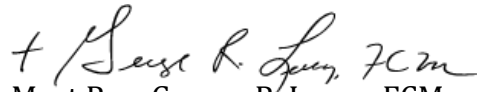
To be peacemakers today, we must examine our own attitudes and actions, ensuring they align with the peace of the Kingdom. St. Francis of Assisi, reflecting on Psalm 147, reminds us that we are "called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way." As members of the American National Catholic Church, we must rise to this challenge, embodying these teachings, fostering unity, and working for the common good.

In this time of political unrest and threats of violence, our Church is called not only to proclaim the virtues of justice and mercy but also to act on them. Every moment invites us to respond with mercy, justice, and tender love. Let us unite our prayers with all people of good faith, asking the Holy Spirit to inspire us to be witnesses to Gospel values and to empower us to act with the courage of our faith.

As members of the American National Catholic Church, we have a unique opportunity to be a beacon of hope, love, and unity in a fractured world. In this moment of heightened division, the teachings of our faith offer us a clear path forward. Let us reject hatred, build bridges, and work tirelessly for justice and peace.

May God bless you and strengthen you for this holy work.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop