



AMERICAN NATIONAL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 3, 2025

His Holiness Pope Francis  
Apostolic Palace 00120 Vatican City

Your Holiness,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I write to you as Bishop George Lucey, the Presiding Bishop of the American National Catholic Church (ANCC), to express heartfelt gratitude for your courageous leadership of the Church. Your unwavering commitment to the Gospel and your dedication to the vision of a Church that truly embodies mercy, justice, and inclusivity continue to inspire countless faithful around the world.

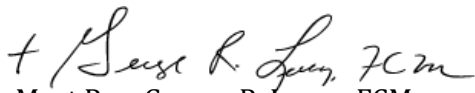
The American National Catholic Church is a Catholic jurisdiction that finds its identity and mission deeply rooted in the Spirit of the Second Vatican Council. We embrace its call for renewal and reform with profound joy, and we are committed to living out its vision of a Church that engages the modern world with compassion and hope. Our parishes and ministries are vibrant communities where the reforms of Vatican II are lived without tension, and where the people of God find a welcoming and affirming home.

In our sacramental life, pastoral outreach, and commitment to social justice, we seek to reflect the Church as envisioned by the Council: a Church that is truly the People of God, journeying together in faith, responding to the signs of the times, and proclaiming the Good News to all. We are particularly inspired by your emphasis on synodality, dialogue, and the preferential option for the poor, values that resonate deeply within our community.

Your Holiness, we recognize the challenges and opposition you have faced in your efforts to lead the Church into a deeper fidelity to its mission. Please know that you are not alone in this work. We stand in solidarity with you, and we pray daily for your strength, wisdom, and health as you continue to shepherd the Church with courage and humility.

As you guide the universal Church in its ongoing discernment and reform, we remain steadfast in our support and in our commitment to living out the Catholic faith in ways that honor the Gospel and serve the common good. May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire and sustain you in your ministry, and may God bless you abundantly.

In Christ's peace,

  
Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM  
Presiding Bishop  
American National Catholic Church

CC: Monsignor Leonardo Sapienza  
Regent of the Prefecture of the Papal Household  
Apostolic Palace 00120 Vatican City