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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **St. Thomas More ANCC, Elkins Park, PA to celebrate First Anniversary**

August 28, 2013 - St. Thomas More, an American National Catholic Church located at 7809 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA, will celebrate their First Anniversary as a parish community on Saturday, September 7, 2013.

The celebration begins with an outdoor Mass (weather permitting) at 5:00 pm with a light reception to follow on September 7, 2013. Those attending are invited to bring a lawn chair.

St. Thomas More is an inclusive, welcoming and contemporary expression of Catholicism. St. Thomas' has become the destination for many Catholics seeking a welcoming alternative to the more conservative and exclusive parish churches.

While maintaining the core theology and liturgical practices of Roman Catholicism, St. Thomas More ANCC differs in several important areas. Unlike Roman Catholicism, priests are allowed to get married and women are permitted to be ordained priest. The seven sacraments are open to all people regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

St. Thomas More doesn't require an annulment prior to remarriage within the church and welcomes those who have been divorced to full and active participation in the church. It is also fully inclusive of all people. We joyfully unite same-sex couples in the Sacrament of Matrimony and ordain qualified gay and lesbian priests who are called by God.

We disagree with Rome regarding the absolute authority of the Pope. We agree with the more collegial decision-making process suggested by Vatican II. Lastly, St. Thomas More ANCC has not adopted the 2011 Roman Mass liturgy changes, such as the use of "and with your spirit," instead of the more familiar, "and also with you." The more comfortable wording remains part of St. Thomas' weekly Mass.

Over the past year, St. Thomas More has grown into a truly viable and inclusive community under the guidance and leadership of Rev. Phyllis McHugh, a former nun turned Catholic priest.

All are welcome to attend this wonderful celebration and learn more about St. Thomas More ANCC. For more information about St. Thomas More American National Catholic Church: [www.stthomasmoreancc.org](http://www.stthomasmoreancc.org).

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