

The Old Catholic Communion

The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you;
you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:34

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:34b – 36.

February, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

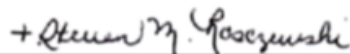
We live in a politically charged time. Some of us may seek to avoid conflict by remaining silent. As people of faith, however, there are times when we must speak up. By virtue of our baptisms, we are called to strive for justice and peace among all people.

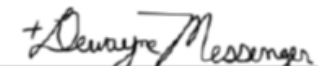
One of the current administration's initiatives is the arrest and mass deportation of immigrants and the stripping away of their children's rights to naturalized citizenship. While our nation has a right to secure its borders and to punish those who inflict harm on others, we must balance this imperative with the higher calling to respect the intrinsic value and dignity of all people – especially the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable.

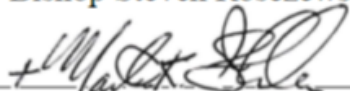
Welcoming the stranger in our midst is not a political act. It is, in fact, our sacred obligation. Time and time again, scripture tells us we are to care for the sojourner, the immigrant, and the foreigner. We, the Bishops of the Old Catholic Communion, wholeheartedly agree with Pope Francis's recent missive entitled: **Letter of the Holy Father Francis to the Bishops of the United States of America**.¹ In this letter, Pope Francis urges the Roman Catholic bishops to remember Catholic teaching regarding immigration. The Pope denounces the Trump administration's plan to indiscriminately deport undocumented immigrants. We affirm that, as faithful followers of Jesus, we have a moral and ethical obligation to care for the poor, the needy and immigrants living among us.

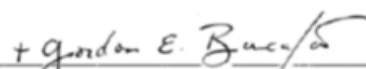
We, the Bishops of the Old Catholic Communion, also wish to address President Trump's directive, setting aside historical precedent that precluded ICE agents from entering schools, churches, and hospitals to detain and arrest individuals and a particular segment of people. Permitting ICE agents to enter our sacred spaces is an affront to our freedom of religion and is a violation of our constitutional rights of free speech and peaceful assembly. This intimidation tactic has already instilled fear among our members and causes harm to the most vulnerable among us. We applaud our sisters and brothers in various faith groups who have recently filed a lawsuit against Homeland Security in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, challenging the shift in policy which now allows ICE to conduct raids in sensitive areas.²

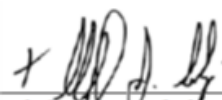
We urge all the faithful to stand firm in faith and action during these trying times.


Bishop Steven Rosczewski


Bishop Dewayne Messenger


Bishop Martin Shanahan


Bishop Gordon Barcalow


Bishop Michael Scalzi, Bishop Chair

¹ <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2025/documents/20250210-lettera-vescovi-usa.html>

² https://www.law.georgetown.edu/icap/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2025/02/Mennonite-Church-USA-v.-U.S.-Department-of-Homeland-Security-Complaint.pdf?mc_cid=274c047df7&mc_eid=a4fe401b5c