

Declaration of Reimagining and Rebirth
Tuesday, 25 January 2022
Feast of the Calling of Saint Paul the Apostle


In the Names of the Most Holy and Blessed Trinity. Amen.

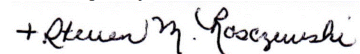
To our dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,


For more than ten years we have embraced the call to be Church and journeyed together as The Old Catholic Church, Province of the United States. Our life together has been blessed with many gifts of diligent work, collaboration as laity, clergy, and bishops, with shared joys and sorrows in our Old Catholic household of faith. We thank almighty God for all that we have been together as a national church family.

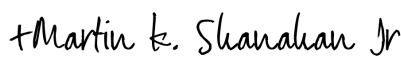
Sadly though, our beloved Church has in recent time succumbed to elements that are counter-indicative of what we understand as Church: manipulative and deceptive speech, the desecrating coup of our national synodal assembly, the intentional character assassination of the bishops of our Local Churches, willful undermining of a reconciliation process and the most grievous betrayal of the confessional seal by clergy and a bishop to further their self-aggrandizement. We denounce these retributive actions and misbehavior as incompatible with the sacred Christian community. We commend these participants to the mercy of God and pray for their metanoia in faith.

We, the undersigned, in concert with our respective Local Churches, choose now to truly re-imagine our Old Catholic identity in communion with one another. We desire to bring forth the very best from the deep well of our Old Catholic faith with eyes wide open, and welcoming, inclusive arms for the future. We are set on unity as bridge builders always seeking the peace of the Church through our mutual care, concern, attentiveness, accountability, and fidelity. This unity calls each of us to be attentive to holiness, catholicity, and apostolicity for these are dynamically and inextricably interrelated. We are committed to working together as the words of St. Cyprian of Carthage admonish us: *"...this unity we ought firmly hold and assert, especially those of us that are bishops who preside in the church, that we may also prove the episcopate itself to be one and undivided...The episcopate is one, each part of which is held by each other for the whole."* Therefore, united in faith and trust before God and each other, we, the laity, clergy, and bishops, declare to you that we are now reborn as the **Old Catholic Communion**, effective this date.

DocuSigned by:

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Most Rev. Dr. Rosemary Ananis,
Ordinary, Diocese of New England

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Most Rev. Steven M. Roszczewski,
Ordinary, Diocese of the Southeast

DocuSigned by:

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Most Rev. Michael J. Scalzi, osb
Ordinary, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

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Most. Rev. Martin K. Shanahan, Jr.
Ordinary, Diocese of the Holy Cross/Midwest


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Cheryl A. Rennekar,
Chairperson of the House of Delegates/Executive Council