



Old Catholic Apostolic Church

in the United States

St. Adalbert Parish Formation

Parish formation is an undertaking of theological and, perhaps even more importantly, legal implications. A company, complete with at least 3 officers (President, Treasurer, and Secretary) will have to be created and registered with the state. Additionally, if donations are to be sought, registration with the IRS as a tax-exempt charity will be required. Thereafter, legal and tax advice must be maintained.

With respect to a building, one could be leased or purchased. Monthly lease payments or mortgage payments must then be met and covered by donations before any charity work could commence. Whether leased or owned, insurance for the building will be required. Additionally, some type of liability insurance to cover accidents would be another prudent expenditure. And then, do not forget, there will be periodic and scheduled maintenance and utility payments.

These are daunting, formidable, and necessary.

A free space, void of financial obligations, is the ideal. Remember, the early congregations met in homes. (Is part of your garage available? Do you have a safe out-building for use? If so, does it have ventilation, power, water? Would a local, mainline church allow limited but free use of a chapel?)

Each parish in the Old Catholic Apostolic Church (OCAC) is an entity. The "main" church cannot own nor distribute money, nor own land: there will likely never be a financial scandal for the "main" church. Therefore, each parish sinks or swims on its own; they would, of course, have the prayers and well wishes of the rest of the church, but that's it.

Clergy in the OCAC do not receive a salary from the "main" church. Clergy may charge for weddings, baptisms, and funerals, but their paying-job must be their main concern. What if they work on Sundays and could only celebrate Mass on Wednesday morning, or Vespers on Monday evening? Midnight Matins and 3 A.M. Lauds need not even be entertained.

Prayers and liturgies are available at the OCAC web site. It may be more practical for just 2 or 3 friends whose schedules are similar to use them for own spiritual guidance, rather than try to create a 10, 15, 20+ member parish and meet frustration after frustration. Or perhaps YOU feel a calling to ordination?

These are practical points we must consider.