



**U.S. Prelature for Old-Catholics**  
*Petition for Holy Orders*



OLD CATHOLIC CONFEDERATION  
Old Catholic Church in the United States



# From the Office of Vocations

Dear Applicant,

The call to priesthood is a gift from God; an invitation to a way of life that requires faith, generosity, and courage. We welcome your application and your desire to join us in living our ancient faith in the modern world.

The process of discernment is a mutual experience; and this application will help to determine whether you are called to holy orders in the Old Catholic Church in the United States under the Old Catholic Confederation. Be assured of our prayers, and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely in Christ,

*The Office of Vocations*

(Old Catholic Confederation)  
Office of the Chancery

# Part I *personal information*



Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postnominal: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# Part II *sacramental information*

*The candidate must furnish original or notarized copies of all documents.*

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Minister: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bishop: \_\_\_\_\_

Matrimony: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Officiant: \_\_\_\_\_



## Part III *educational information*

*The candidate should send copies of academic transcripts with this application and original copies to the Office of the Chancery.*

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate or Professional School: \_\_\_\_\_

Degrees/Field: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate or Professional School: \_\_\_\_\_

Degrees/Field: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part IV *employment information*



*Please include a copy of Curriculum Vitae or Resume along with this application.*

Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of work: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part V *written statements*

*Each candidate will be required to submit the following typed statements:*

- **Biographical Statement**– this essay should provide insight into your personal history, employment and family life
- **Vocational Statement**– this essay should provide insight into your desire for priestly ministry, your sense of calling and vocational history
- **Letter of Petition for Postulancy to the Archbishop**– this is a formal letter written by the candidate, requesting to be accepted for Postulancy

## Part VI *letters of recommendation*

- The candidate should include three letters of recommendation (spiritual, professional, personal) with this application. If the candidate is already a cleric, at least two of the letters should come from fellow clerics.



## Part VII *background check*

- The candidate is required to obtain proof of a valid background check by the State Police department and the FBI. If the candidate has a police record, he or she is required to submit a **Statement of Explanation** with this application. While a police record will not necessarily prevent acceptance, an individual convicted of a sex crime cannot be received into Postulancy for the U.S. Prelature for Old-Catholics.

*Please contact the Office of Vocations with any questions.*

## Part VIII *psychological exam*

- The candidate is required to complete a psychological examination conducted by a licensed psychologist at the expense of the candidate.
- For candidates of the U.S. Prelature for Old-Catholics, candidates are generally conducted by licensed psychologists at the Greenridge Counseling Center at 6122 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128. Once a candidate has been accepted as a postulant, he or she may make an appointment for a psychological evaluation at 215-487-1330. The fee is \$900.00, which is to be paid by the candidate directly who must agree to have the final report sent to the Archbishop. The psychological evaluation involves the standard battery of tests, an interview and appointment for feedback. On occasion, for candidates who cannot make an appointment in Philadelphia, psychological evaluations can be conducted by a local psychologist appointed by the Archbishop.



## Part IX *theological education and priestly formation*

- In general, all candidates are required to be examined by the Archdiocesan Commission on Ministry concerning their knowledge of theology, church history, sacramental theology, liturgy, etc.
- The Commission on Ministry also advises the Archbishop on whether the candidate requires further theological education or formation.
- All priests and postulants called to priestly ministry are required by Canon law to hold a graduate degree in theology, divinity or a related field, approved by the Archbishop. The postulant may be permitted to attend any university, seminary or divinity school of his or her choice, at the postulant's expense, but priestly formation will be conducted by the Archdiocese of the United States. Otherwise, postulants may be appointed by the local ordinary to register for a canonical or ecclesiastical degree program at the School of Divinity of the Collegium Augustinianum Graduate School of Philosophy and Theology, an independent university chartered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in the State of Florida and authorized to grant ecclesiastical degrees in theology by the canonical authority of the Synod of Bishops of the Old Catholic Confederation. While all students are required to pay their own tuition, the OCC Seminarian Fund can assist students who can demonstrate financial need.



### **Collegium Augustinianum | Ministry Formation Program**

- *The Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) degree in Theology*
- *The Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) degree in Theology*
- *The Bachelor of Philosophy (Ph.B.) degree in Philosophy*



## Part X *spousal consent, the promise of obedience and ecclesiastical protocol*

- The candidate should be well-aware that the vocation to ministry is a very serious vocation. Since all major clerics are required to make a Promise of Obedience to the local Ordinary, the Archbishop, married postulants must first get written permission from his or her spouse. From the moment of his or her ordination and promise of obedience, the deacon or priest is required to offer respect and obedience to the Archbishop. Further, all clerics are to observe the Code of Canon Law and the ecclesiastical protocol and culture of the OCC.





# *Sample letter to the Archbishop*

(SAMPLE FORMAL LETTER OF PETITION FOR POSTULANCY TO THE  
ARCHBISHOP)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CANDIDATE  
DATE

His Grace, The Most Rev. Craig J. N. de Paulo, Ph.D., D.D.  
Primate  
Old Catholic Confederation  
St. Willibrord Priory  
180 Candy Road  
Mohnton, PA 19540

Your Grace:

It is with great humility and with a sincere desire to follow the calling of priesthood in the service of the Lord and His holy Church that I beg your kind consideration of my request to be received and accepted as a Postulant for Holy Orders in the U.S. Prelature for Old-Catholics the Old Catholic Confederation, in hope that one day I may be privileged to serve in ordained ministry in the Old Catholic Church in the United States, of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ.

Respectfully yours,

(SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE)



*Please submit the completed petition package (with scanned documents)  
Chancery@occus.org*

*In addition, please send all original and notarized documents to:*

- U.S. Prelature for Old-Catholics  
Office of the Chancery  
St. Willibrord Priory  
180 Candy Road  
Mohnton, PA 19540



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