



Old Catholic Apostolic Church

in the United States

The Ancient Orthodox-Catholic Assembly (AOCA) is a group within the Old Catholic Apostolic Church that uses prayer services and liturgies of those Orthodox churches in the Apostolic Lines of Succession within the OCAC: Coptic, Greek/Russian, and Syriac.

The AOCA fully recognizes all lines of Apostolic Succession within the OCAC, but emphasizes that of the Ancient Catholic Church (so named in 1950) which includes:

- English (non-Papal)
- Roman Catholic
- Anglican
- Scottish Episcopal
- USA Episcopal
- Syriac Line
- Ancient Catholic
- LCAC – includes Coptic and Greek/Russian Lines
- OCAC

The AOCA will, and must, comply with OCAC Canon Law.

The AOCA will, and must, operate in the spirit of the beliefs posted of the OCAC web site:

- God is Love.
- God is expressed as Trinity: God the Creator, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Three; but one and indivisible.
- The Bible is the central and most important scripture.
- Sacraments are an outward sign of inner grace. Mass (also called Eucharist) is the most important, the others being baptism, confirmation, unction, matrimony, absolution and Holy Orders.
- We should forgive sins, as Jesus said: seventy times seven.
- Evil exists and is of Satan.
- Prayer is central to our daily lives.
- Each one of us must have an active expression of ministry.
- No one of us is able to judge another person; that is for God. We are called to judge situations and circumstances and always act as we believe Christ would want us to.

- We must treat others, at all times, no matter who they are, with respect and love.
- We are Christian and catholic in the widest sense and stand alongside all our Christian brothers and sisters.

In addition, noting that these churches also have their own catechisms, individual AOCA groups may use these within the same guidelines noted above.

Eastern, Russian, Syriac, or Western vestments may be used but will not be provided by the OCAC.

With respect to documented consecrations in Apostolic Succession, it must be acknowledged that gaps exist due to a myriad of reasons. There are, for example, only two existing and fully documented lines of succession in the Roman Catholic Church: d'Estoutville in 1439 and Rebiba in 1541. They are so named because it is not known who consecrated them.

The AOCA will not deny Communion, or any Sacrament, to any member of the OCAC not using Orthodox liturgies.

The AOCA is highly decentralized; communications are free and need no permission nor authority.

The AOCA may celebrate feasts of any, or all, of the Eastern or Oriental churches; it is free to use to Gregorian or Julian calendar.

Each AOCA group may celebrate divine office or divine liturgy in the language of their choice. Acknowledging the fact the the OCAC also has lines of succession from the Church of the East, the Uniate Chaldean Church, and the Uniate Melkite Church, these services, in English or their native language, may also be used.

The AOCA is, at all times, under the authority of the Presiding Archbishop; it is not a jurisdiction within the OCAC. There is not, and will not ever be, a Presiding Archbishop of the AOCA; nor will there ever be denominational nor geographic dioceses.

Attachment to a particular ethnic Orthodox church will not supersede the dedication to the freedom found in the OCAC.

There is no guarantee that the "Mother Churches" of these rites will, in any way, recognize any ordination received in the OCAC.