



**Statement on the
“Holy Redeemer Old Catholic Church”
and its affiliation with the Catholic Church**

Recently, a group has begun meeting at Minquadale United Methodist Church calling themselves the “Holy Redeemer Old Catholic Church.” From time to time, these “churches” are found that appear to be Catholic, but are not, and may cause confusion for the Catholic faithful. It becomes especially problematic when Catholics approach these “churches” for the Sacraments.

Therefore, for the benefit of the faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, we wish to offer the following clarifications:

- The “Holy Redeemer Old Catholic Church” is outside the full communion of the Catholic Church and, therefore, is not affiliated with Bishop Malooly or Pope Francis.
- Except for the Sacrament of Baptism, any sacrament received in this “church” is invalid. Weddings involving at least one Catholic spouse that are celebrated in this or similar “churches” are also invalid and would require a validation (blessing) in the Catholic Church.
- Many of these “churches” and their “priests” look legitimate. Some even use name “Catholic” and many of their ministers have advanced degrees from Catholic colleges and universities. Catholics should be wary of any institution that promotes itself as outside the Roman Catholic Church or espouses beliefs contrary to the Church’s position on matters such as papal infallibility, priestly ordination, and/or sexual ethics.

Anyone needing clarification on the status of any “church” or “priest” should contact the diocesan Chancery Office at 302-573-3100 or at chancery@cdow.org to verify its affiliation with the Catholic Church.

November 12, 2015