



North American  
Old Catholic Church

Bringing Love to the World

13 October 2021

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF BELIEVERS

My Dear Friends:

I wanted to send a quick note to you as you gather with Bishop Andre' Marie these days at the Monastery. I can only imagine the wonderful views the God is providing you this fall in such a wonderful, peaceful place.

The fall color palate, full of diversity of shape, size, and hue is certainly one of the most **amazing artists rendition of the Human Family drawn by our Creator**. Each of you gathered in advisement to the monastery and her mission are certainly the real-life explosion of this wonderful fall that you are witnessing, and that I am sad to not be there with you.

The governing documents of the church tells us that that church itself exists for the benefit of the people of God, and our primary focus must be saving the souls of God's children. These same documents the most effective way to do so, is to **seek counsel from the people of God, and to give their ideas and counsel "great weight."**

With this charge to the whole church, comes a great responsibility for her ministers, and for each of you. **You are our compass- our guide**. Truly you are **the embodiment of the instruction** of the ancient Deacon Alcuin, advisor to King Charlemagne in 798 A.D., "*Vox populi, vox Dei*" "The voice of the people is the voice of God."

Therefore, my charge to you is simple. **SPEAK!** We want and need to hear **God's voice from the prophetic and the humble**. This is YOUR church! Tell us where to go, what to do. **Lead us** in our desire to be compassionate, to be the bosom on those who suffer under modern tyrannies, to provide shelter, refreshment, rest, and peace. Together, we will restore the dignity of our sisters and brothers.

You are the backbone that allow us all to **STAND UP** in the face of those who attempt to divide us as a people, causing strife and violence. And most certainly admonish us when we miss the mark. Remind us that **Church isn't a building, it's Ecclesia, from the Greek meaning "Gathering of those summoned."** Exactly what you are doing today with the beauty of God behind you on the mountains of Vermont.

I can't imagine anything more beautiful. Thank you for adding your distinct voice, vision, and coloring to the mural painted by God.

I look forward to working with you all.

Many Blessings,

+ *Michael V. Seneco (e)*

The Most Reverend Michael V. Seneco, SPSA, DD, L.Th.  
Presiding Bishop