



*Saint Catherine of Siena  
Pray for us.*

# Catholic Laity

*for Orthodox Bishops and Reform*

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January 18, 2018

Feast of St. Prisca, Virgin and Martyr

BY HAND

Most Rev. Christophe Pierre  
Apostolic Nuncio to the United States  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008-3610

Re: Catholic Laity for Orthodox Bishops and Reform

Your Excellency:

As we explained in our letter of December 28, 2018, we are Catholic Laity for Orthodox Bishops and Reform (Catholic Laity). Our purpose is to secure a worthy shepherd for the Archdiocese of Washington and to establish communications among Catholic laity, the U.S. hierarchy, and the Holy See for matters concerning Catholic life in the United States.

As you and many U.S. Bishops have recognized, you need the laity to be successful shepherds. Recent events in Washington have highlighted the need for a worthy shepherd as our Archbishop, and so again Catholic Laity is offering to collaborate in the selection of the next Archbishop of Washington. We are not trying to make an appointment ourselves. We are simply trying to bring our experience of the Church and our needs to the attention of our shepherds. We recognize our right and duty to do this under Canon 212. You can play a vital leadership role by setting an example to demonstrate the readiness of the representative of the Holy See to meet with us.

A meeting with you will be important not only in establishing communications generally with the hierarchy, but especially in addressing the immediate need to secure a worthy shepherd for the Archdiocese of Washington. This is an appointment of national and, indeed, global significance. The Archbishop of Washington holds a preeminent position in the U.S. hierarchy,

in U.S. public life, and in the universal Church. We need a strong leader in the Faith to meet the almost unprecedented challenges the Church is facing in the United States and globally.

We pray for your mission among us and thank you for your fidelity. May God bless you with joy in His coming Incarnate and give you abundant blessed fruits in your work.

Sincerely yours,

*Winnie Obike*

Winnie Obike

*Donna F. Bethell*

Donna F. Bethell

cc: His Eminence, Pietro Parolin  
His Eminence, Marc Ouellet  
His Eminence, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo