



## AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

*So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*  
- Ephesians 2:19–22

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace!

We in the American National Catholic Church, who draw on our shared faith and experience, note with some care for all of you who might be members of the parish communities which are closing or consolidating in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The American National Catholic Church suspects that this was a very difficult decision on the part of the administration of the Archdiocese and prays for all involved.

For all of us as Catholics, our parish is our spiritual home. It is where the seeds of faith, hope, and love take root in us and are continually nourished through the sacramental life of the Church. As Catholics, our entire life is lived up and down the aisle of our parish home. We were carried down the aisle at our Baptism, walked down the aisle to experience Reconciliation, and with awe and wonder walked the same aisle to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. At Confirmation, we confidently marched down our parish aisle, eager to reaffirm our faith. With joy and hope for the future, we walked the aisle on Wedding days and ordinations. At the end of our lives, we are again carried down the very same parish aisle, one last time. Our parishes are the locus where we experience and share in the joys and sorrows of our community life with others who share our love for God and one another in our faith Traditions.

We know the tremendous loss to the spiritual and communal quality of our lives as our parishes close, and we want you to know of the parish community of Our Lady Undoer of Knots American National Catholic Parish, located in the greater Baltimore area at Edmondson Ave in West Baltimore, MD ( <https://our-lady-undoer-of-knots.org> ) and Nuestra Senora de la Medalla Milagrosa American National Catholic Parish located in Germantown, MD ( <https://rb.gy/llxftm> ). Please know you are welcome to join us in the celebration of the extravagant love of God at the heart of the Church, lived out in our all-inclusive Catholic parishes.

Please be assured also of our prayers for you and our hope that you might find a home with us as we journey together to witness to the Kingdom in our midst.