

# ~ WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY ~ JANUARY 18-25, 2010

*By Fr. Michael F. Kiernan, Ecumenical and Interreligious Office  
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The North State Ecumenical Commission comprised of a number of Christian congregations works hard to promote Christian unity in the Sacramento area.

It is vital to pray for the unity of all Christians following the very heart of Jesus, our Divine Master, who has taught us to pray:” that they all may be one... that the world may believe” (Jn 17:21).

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was first observed in January, 1908 in the chapel of a small Atonement Franciscan Convent of the Protestant Episcopal Church, on a remote hillside fifty miles from New York City. Fr. Paul Wattson stated as follows:

*“God’s will is omnipotent; the Fiat of the Most High must prevail; the prayer of Jesus Christ has got to be answered. Sooner or later every petition of Christ will inevitably be granted. Were the mountains of difficulty to be surmounted a thousand times higher and vaster than they are, God is able to cast them into the sea. Faith serenely rests her case with Him.”*

We have now had 100 years of Christian efforts to pray for unity and the establishment of an annual week of prayer for Christian unity has been a great blessing in this effort.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2010 offers important opportunities to express the degree of communion which Christians have and to pray

together for that full unity which is Christ’s will.

This year a special occasion will be celebrated on January 25 when Bishop Jaime Soto will invite various Christian denominations leaders to lunch. It is hoped this will lead to a larger gathering of “Christian Religious Leaders in Conversation” on January 18, 2011.

Many steps can be taken to promote Christian unity such as:

- ✦ Preach on Christian Unity in our churches.
- ✦ Reach out to other Christian denominations.
- ✦ Respect each Christian denomination and dialogue with them.
- ✦ Speak well of other Christians as much as possible.
- ✦ Examine our own position as to how we live the Christian life and contribute to unity or disunity.
- ✦ Pray earnestly that God will help us bring about Christian unity.

Be prepared to make the changes on the organizational and practical procedures that Christian unity will entail.

Let us pray for unity among the Christian Churches as willed by Christ. Let us give thanks to God for all the good that has been done and for all the riches that will come when Christians are, at last, reconciled in harmony and prayer.

## New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Please Print Clearly. Thank You!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First)

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

New or  Change Address      *Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!*      Offering Envelopes  Yes  No

## ~ SEMANA DE ORACIÓN PARA LA UNIDAD CRISTIANA ~

### 18-25 DE ENERO DE 2010

*Por el Padre Michael F. Kiernan, Oficina Ecuménica y Interreligiones  
Diócesis de Sacramento en [mkiernan@diocese-sacramento.org](mailto:mkiernan@diocese-sacramento.org)*

La Comisión Ecuménica de los Estados del Norte está compuesta por un número de congregaciones cristianas que trabajan fuerte para promover la unidad cristiana en el área de Sacramento.

Es vital el orar para por la unidad de todos los cristianos tras el corazón de Jesús, nuestro Divino Maestro, que nos ha enseñado como Oremos: "que todos podamos ser uno... que el mundo lo crea"(Jn 17: 21).

La semana de oración para la Unidad Cristiana fue observada por primera vez en enero del 1908 en la capilla de un pequeño Convento de Franciscanos de la Iglesia Protestante Episcopal, en un remoto lugar al lado de una colina a cincuenta millas de la ciudad de Nueva York. El Padre Paul Wattson declaró lo siguiente:

***"La voluntad de Dios es omnipotente; debe ser un decreto del altísimo; la oración de Jesús Cristo tiene que tener una respuesta. Tarde o temprano las peticiones de Cristo inevitablemente serán concedidas. Las montañas de dificultades serán superadas por la grandeza de Dios y arrojadas al fondo del mar. La Fe serenamente en este caso descansará en el Señor."***

Ahora tenemos 100 años de esfuerzos cristianos por la unidad y el establecimiento de una semana anual de oración por la unidad cristiana y este esfuerzo ha sido una gran bendición.

La semana de Oración por la unidad de los cristianos, del 18-25 de enero del 2010 ofrece importantes oportunidades para expresar el grado de comunión que tienen los cristianos y para orar juntos por

la unidad que es la voluntad plena de Cristo.

Este año una ocasión especial se celebrará el 25 de enero cuando el Obispo Jaime Soto invitara a varios líderes de denominaciones cristianas a almorzar. Se espera que esto conduzca a una reunión más grande de "Líderes religiosos cristianos en conversación" para el 18 De enero del 2011.

Muchos pasos pueden adoptarse para promover la unidad cristiana como:

- ✦ Predicar sobre Unidad de Cristianos en nuestras iglesias.
- ✦ Intenta comunicarte a otras denominaciones cristianas.
- ✦ Respeto para cada denominación cristiana y el diálogo con ellos.

- ✦ Hablar bien de otros cristianos en la medida posibles.
- ✦ Examinar nuestra propia posición como de cómo vivimos la vida cristiana y contribuir a la unidad y no a la desunión.
- ✦ Orar sinceramente para que Dios nos ayuda a lograr unidad cristiana.

✦

Prepárese para realizar los cambios en los procedimientos de organización y prácticas que Implicará la unidad cristiana.

Oremos por la unidad entre las iglesias cristianas como legó por Cristo. Demos gracias a Dios por todo el bien que se ha hecho y todas las riquezas que vendrán cuando los cristianos sean, por fin, reconciliados en armonía y en la oración.



## ~ CHURCHES MUST WORK FOR UNITY ~

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from Monday, January 18 through Wednesday, January 25. I share with you a few thoughts on what is happening in Catholic-Orthodox dialogue:

Catholics and Orthodox have a responsibility to work toward full unity in accordance with the will of Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Meeting with a committee preparing for a full meeting of the international Catholic-Orthodox dialogue held last year, the pope said he rejoiced at the desire to "take up again and pursue the dialogue which, over the past few years, had known serious internal and external difficulties."

Previously, the international Catholic-Orthodox dialogue had discussed the role and theological implications of the agreements that led to the formation of the Eastern Catholic churches. That meeting ended without any conclusions or decisions agreeable to Orthodox and Catholics.

Fifteen autonomous Orthodox churches, meeting at the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in Turkey, agreed that the dialogue should be restarted.

The decision, the pope told Orthodox and Catholic members of the preparatory committee, "constitutes a great responsibility. It is indeed a question of achieving the will of the Lord who wants his disciples to form a harmonious community and to witness together to the brotherly love that comes from the Lord."

Pope Benedict said, "in this new phase of dialogue," Catholics and Orthodox must work to eliminate the differences remaining between them and resolve "to do everything to re-establish full communion, which is an essential good for the community of Christ's disciples, as is underlined in the preparatory document you are working on."

Pope Benedict told the church officials and theolo-

gians that the full communion Catholics and Orthodox seek with one another is "a communion in truth and charity."

"We cannot be satisfied to remain at an intermediate stage," he said. "Rather, without ceasing, but with courage, clarity and humility, we must seek the will of Jesus Christ, even if it does not correspond to our simple human plans."

The reconciliation of the Christian community, he said, will come only "at the price of submitting our wills to the will of the Lord."

Pope Benedict said human efforts alone would not be enough, which is why all Catholics and Orthodox must pray for the gift of unity.

Explaining the 15 years of difficulty in Catholic-Orthodox dialogue, the Vatican statement said the fall of communism in Eastern Europe and the freedom it brought to Eastern-rite Catholics in territories with a majority Orthodox population "reopened wounds in Catholic-Orthodox relations that had never healed."

The years that passed since the last meeting of the commission, the Vatican statement said, "were years of patient hope."

"Pope John Paul II never let an opportunity go by to underline the importance of reactivating the theological dialogue while taking into account (the) need to overcome difficulties deriving from psychological attitudes, a lack of mutual knowledge" and differing developments in the churches of the East and West, the statement said.

Now with Pope Benedict XVI's dedicated and amazing theological skills plus the openness of Orthodox patriarchs, among them Patriarch Kiril of Russia, there is a great hope that progress on unity will continue strongly in 2010.

## ~ IGLESIAS DEBEN TRABAJAR POR LA UNIDAD ~

La semana anual de oración por la Unidad de los Cristianos es desde el lunes, 18 de enero, a través del Miércoles, 25 de enero. Comparto con ustedes algunas reflexiones sobre lo que está ocurriendo en el diálogo Católico-Ortodoxo:

Católicos y Ortodoxos tienen la responsabilidad de trabajar hacia la unidad plena de acuerdo con la voluntad de Cristo, dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI.

Al reunirse con un Comité de preparación para una reunión completa del Diálogo Internacional Católico-Ortodoxo celebrada el año pasado, el Papa dijo que él se regocijó en el deseo "remoto de continuar el diálogo que, durante los últimos años, había conocido graves dificultades internas y externas."

Anteriormente, había discutido el diálogo internacional de católicos-ortodoxos. el papel y las implicaciones teológicas de los acuerdos que llevaron a la formación de las iglesias orientales católicas. Dicha reunión terminó sin ninguna conclusión o decisión agradable a ortodoxos y católicos.

Quince iglesias ortodoxas autónomas, reunidas en el ecuménico Patriarcado de Constantinopla en Turquía, estuvieron de acuerdo en que el diálogo debería ser reiniciado.

La decisión, dijo el Papa a miembros de la Iglesia Ortodoxa y Católica del Comité Preparatorio, "constituye una gran responsabilidad. Se trata de una cuestión de lograr la voluntad del Señor que quiere que sus discípulos formen una Comunidad armoniosa y presenciar juntos el amor fraterno que viene del Señor".

Benedicto dijo, "en esta nueva fase de diálogo," católicos y ortodoxa debe trabajar para eliminar las diferencias restantes entre ellos y resolver "a hacer todo lo posible para restablecer la plena comunión, que es esencial para la comunidad de los discípulos de Cristo, como se destaca en el documento preparatorio "que estamos trabajando."

Benedicto dijo a los oficiales de la Iglesia y teólogos que lo que se busca es la plena comunión de los católicos y ortodoxos con uno y con otro "una comunión verdadera y caridad".

"Podemos estar satisfechos a permanecer en una fase intermedia," él dijo. "Más bien, sin cesar, pero con valentía, la claridad y la humildad, debemos buscar la voluntad de Jesucristo, incluso si no corresponde a nuestros simples planes humanos."

La reconciliación de la comunidad cristiana, dijo, vendrá sólo "en el precio de presentar nuestras voluntades a la voluntad del Señor".

Benedicto dijo esfuerzos humanos por sí solos no serán suficientes, esta es la razón por la cual todos los católicos y ortodoxos deben rezar por el regalo de la unidad.

Explicando los 15 años de dificultades en el diálogo de católico-ortodoxo, la Declaración del Vaticano dijo que la caída del comunismo en Europa del Este y la libertad señaló a los católicos de rito oriental en territorios con una mayor población ortodoxa "reabrió las heridas en las relaciones de católica-ortodoxo que no habían nunca curado."

Los años que pasaron desde la última reunión de la Comisión, se decía que fueron declarados por el Vaticano, como "años de esperanza y de paciencia".

"Juan Pablo II nunca dejó la oportunidad de subrayar la importancia de reactivar el diálogo teológico aunque teniendo en cuenta la necesidad de superar las dificultades que se derivan de las actitudes psicológicas, por la falta de conocimiento mutuo" y diferentes acontecimientos en las iglesias del Este y el Oeste, dijo en su declaración.

Ahora con habilidades teológicas y la dedicación sorprendentes del Papa Benedicto XVI Además de la apertura de los patriarcas ortodoxos, entre ellos Kiril Patriarca de Rusia, hay una gran esperanza de que continúe avanzando en unidad y fuerza en el 2010.

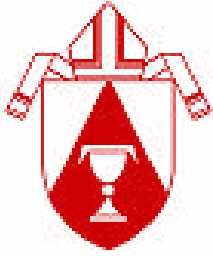
## PARISH DIRECTORY AT A GLANCE

MINISTRY	LEAD	TELEPHONE
Parish Council	Peter Rufing	478-1198
Liturgy Committee	Rex Rallanka	Rectory 444-3071
Finance Committee	Robert Ingenito	Rectory 444-3071
Cantor	Lola Krist	Rectory 444-3071
Choir-English	Rex Rallanka	Rectory 444-3071
Choir-Spanish	Jerry Vanoye	Rectory 444-3071
Docents	Denise Fracchia	Rectory 444-3071
Environment Committee	Chris Houlemard	Rectory 444-3071
Eucharistic Adoration	Isabella Cazares	391-1760
Festival of Trees & Lights	Valerie Chun	Rectory 444-3071
Gift Shop	Sister Jenny	444-5364
Hispanic Apostolate	Deacon Raul Leon	Rectory 444-3071
Hospitality Committee	Maria Balaskin	Rectory 444-3071
Knights of Columbus	Fr. Kiernan	Rectory 444-3071
Liturgical Ministries (Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altarservers)	Mike Ognisty	Rectory 444-3071
Marriage Preparation	Steve and Mariana Rose	421-2281
Parish Vocation Committee	Matthew Mlakar	648-3073
Rectory Volunteers & Staff	Fr. Kiernan	Rectory 444-3071
Religious Education & RCIA	Sr. Jenny	444-5364
Social Committee	Dawn Ruffing	Rectory 444-3071
Social Justice Committee	David Clements	646-1800
St. Vincent de Paul Society	Deacon Jorge Usi	Rectory 444-3071
Ushers	Tom Waddock	Rectory 444-3071
Visiting the Sick	Deacon Raul Leon	Rectory 444-3071
Welcome Back Program	Tim Longdon	Rectory 444-3071
Youth Spanish Group	Edgar & Leticia Hilbert	440-6211 or 261-6504

I am grateful to all who serve our parish in these ministries. We need more to help in these areas and new ministries can develop as in God's grace people come forward. May the Holy Spirit lead us and the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, inspire us.

## ~ DAY OF REPARATION JANUARY 22 ~

Bishop Jaime Soto invites all Catholic men and women in the Diocese of Sacramento to join together for a day of fasting, abstinence, prayer, and works of charity in observance of Friday January 22, 2010, as a Day of Reparation for the sinful national scourge of abortion. We mark this day in this manner because it is the lamentable anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade. There will be a Mass celebrated at the Cathedral on that day at 12:10pm.



As a guide to those who are able to fast on that day, it is recommended that those fasting limit themselves to one full meal. Works of charity are particularly encouraged; visiting the sick, assisting at shelters for women and children. Through our acts of penance and works of charity on this day, we will express our desire to restore a culture of life and a civilization of love in this country so marred by the Roe v. Wade decision and other acts of violence against the innocent.

## ~ CATHEDRAL YOUTH GROUP ~

The Cathedral Youth Group (English and Spanish young people) meets every other Wednesday evening in the Lower Level from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday January 27, 2009. For more information, contact Leticia and Edgar Hilbert at 457-1552 or Sister Jenny at 444-5364.

## ~ HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS ~

*The Sacramento Helpers of God's Precious Infants* invite the community to participate in our "Candlelight Prayer Vigil for Life" on Friday, January 22, 2010 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in reparation for the tragedy of abortion and the Roe vs. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision. We will meet at the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood located at (201 29th Street) in Sacramento, California. We will pray the Angelus, Holy Rosary and sing Marian hymns. Bishop Jaime Soto has declared this a day of penance, so let us make a small sacrifice to come out and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please call Elizabeth Pierini at (916) 813-8269 for more information or visit: [www.sacramentohelpers.org](http://www.sacramentohelpers.org).

## ~ WORLD MARRIAGE DAY ~

World Marriage Day will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **Saturday, February 6, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.** Wives and Husbands Renewing Vows 10, 25 & 50 years. Couples married in the Church celebrating 10, 25 and 50 years will renew their vows. An informal reception will follow for couples and their families sponsored by Marriage Encounter. Any couple interested in attending this special occasion is asked to register (names and anniversary year) with the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis call (916) 733-0123.

## HEALING AFTER ABORTION RETREAT

Struggling after an abortion? Still seeking peace years after the choice? Come to a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, February 19-21 in Auburn, sponsored by the Diocese of Sacramento. The weekend retreat is a unique and effective process designed specifically to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. There are many exercises to help you grieve your loss and an opportunity

to understand and release the deep feelings of anger, shame, guilt and grief that frequently accompany an abortion experience. This process is extremely helpful for those who struggle with forgiving themselves or others. Open to women, men, couples and family members touched by abortion. The cost is \$175. Financial assistance is available. For a registration packet or more information, call Debbie @ (916)733-0161 or send email to [projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org](mailto:projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org). Inquiries and participation are strictly confidential.

## ~ DIOCESAN JOB OPENING ~

Job Opening: The Office of the Bishop at the Diocesan Pastoral Center has an immediate opening for a full-time (35 hours per week) Administrative Assistant. This position serves as a member of the Bishop's secretarial pool. The successful candidate will provide primary support to the Bishop and secondary support to the Vicar General, Vicar for Clergy, and Chancellor. Proficiency in Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, Access) with excellent phone and organizational skills are required. Applicants must be fluent in both English and Spanish. Of particular importance will be excellent translation skills. For more information and a complete job description, visit the diocesan website [www.diocese-sacramento.org](http://www.diocese-sacramento.org). The position will remain open until filled.

## CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE

**MON 1/18/2010 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY**

**1 Sm 15: 16-23; Mk 2: 18-22**

12:10 pm: Carolina Santiago +

5:10 pm: Cesar Fernández Coya +

**TUES 1/19/2010**

**1 Sm 16: 1-13; Mk 2: 23-28**

12:10 pm: Lucille Coauette +

5:10 pm: Dom Jessica & Kelly, S.I.

**WED 1/20/2010 ST. FABIAN & ST. SYLVESTER**

**1 Dm 17-32-33, 37, 40-51; Mk 3: 1-6**

12:10 pm: Bob & Pam Johns, S.I.

5:10 pm: Carol Lumagui, S.I.

**THUR 1/21/2010 ST. AGNES, VIRGIN & MARTYR**

**1 Sm 18: 6-9, 19: 1-7; Mk 3: 7-12**

12:10 pm: Felisa Amado Vidad +

5:10 pm: Arthur Amanda Liliana, S.I.

**FRI 1/22/2010**

**USA DAY OF PENANCE**

**Anniversary of Roe v. Wade**

**1 Sm 24: 3-21; Mk 3: 13-19**

12:10 pm: Anna Kahl +

**NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS**

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**WED & THUR 12:40PM-4:45PM FRI 12:40PM-3:45PM**

**TO SIGN UP CALL ISABELLA CAZARES 391-1760 OR 833-1948,**

**OR E-MAIL [BECAZ96@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:BECAZ96@SBCGLOBAL.NET)**

**CATHEDRAL TOURS EVERY SUNDAY**

**AFTER 9:00 AM AND 11 AM MASSES**