

CADEIO CONNECTION

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012

“We Will All Be Changed by the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ” (cf. 1 Cor. 15:51–58)

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A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was the vision of Father Paul Wattson, founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. Originally known as the Church Unity Octave, the week was first celebrated in 1908. It is observed from Jan. 18, the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, to Jan. 25, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

Today, the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity collaborate on the theme and Scripture texts for the annual Week of Prayer. Christians of Poland helped prepare the materials for this year’s prayer services. The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, headquartered in Graymoor, New York, still take an active role in spearheading the week, particularly in the United States.

The following pages highlight celebrations of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012.

Diaconate Candidates Plan Week of Prayer in Diocese of Palm Beach

by Deacon Dennis Demes, Director, Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, and Lynn Powell, Diaconate Formation Office

Bishop of Palm Beach Gerald M. Barbarito appointed Deacon Dennis Demes, the director of formation for permanent deacons, to head the Diocesan Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, incorporating this critical work into our diaconate formation program.



Wayne Topper, a candidate from the Diocese of Palm Beach Diaconate Formation Program, gives the introduction at the unity service at Gardens Presbyterian Church in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

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President's Letter

by Father Don Rooney



Dear Members of CADEIO,

Greetings during this season of grace in which we join together and enter the mysteries of Christ in his passion, death, and resurrection. I pray that this time be one of great blessing for each of you in your many ministries and activities.

At my parish of St. Mary, we have 230 paper cutout lambs taped to the risers of the steps beneath the altar in the sanctuary. Each one of them represents a second-grader who, after going to confession for the first time, wrote their first name on it and put it there. This host of little lambs has been a powerful reminder for our parish to keep these children in our prayers during the season of Lent because, with life being so busy, it is too easy to forget to pray for each other.

This parable of the lost sheep is an interesting one, indeed. If you look into the homilies of the Fathers of the Church, they had an interesting and different way of reading it. For them, the lost lamb for which the Good Shepherd went searching wasn't one sinner. It was the unity of humanity itself, the Image of God in which we were originally made, which had been disfigured by sin and had to be restored. For the Fathers, the 99 left behind were the angels, as God went to save man.

It is this unity that all of us, in our work (many wearing many hats), seek to help restore. But the unity we seek is more than we are able to do ourselves, it can only be accomplished by God himself. It is messy, and we can be easily discouraged. While it is happening, apostles vanish and people jeer. Its fulfillment most likely will happen in a moment of silence while nobody is watching. But we must move forward as one body who believes that it will happen in God's plan as we watch his providence unfold and the fulfillment of his creation come nearer. I often tell people, when they ask me why I don't just get discouraged, that I'm not doing this because we get to see results. I just believe that somebody has to stay and hold the door open, keep relationships fresh, make friends, so that when the right time comes that the Holy Spirit swings in and restores unity, we will have a context. We're keeping the lamps lit.

I also feel like a volunteer cheerleader. Come on, everybody! You can still sign up for the National Workshop! We don't have anyone yet for the Summer Institute. Regional meetings are scheduled for May, and there has been virtually no response. Please call your regional representative and plan to come for an overnight in which we hopefully will gather to renew contacts and encourage one another to work together regionally. These are the kinds of things that an association of professionals must provide, to be involved in the formation of our future ecumenical and interreligious culture. Ultimately, that is the primary contribution of CADEIO, to assure the continuity of presence and quality dialogue as generations of faithful disciples of unity move forward into the future. Please do all you can to promote these programs and help us however you are able. If you need to, stick a lamb on your wall to remind you.

Really busy people with not a lot of money continue to accomplish great things every day.

God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don' in a cursive, slightly stylized script.

Don

Ecumenism: A Walk of Faith, Collaboration During Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012

by Josh Echt, St. Mary Seminary, Wickliffe, Ohio (Diocese of Cleveland)

It is a long walk—448 miles, to be exact—from the shores of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to the Center for Pastoral Leadership on Euclid Avenue in Wickliffe, Ohio.

But it was a walk—or, in the case of Marquette University professor Sister Susan Wood, an airplane flight—worth taking.

Wood spoke to roughly 50 seminarians, priests, sisters, and laity at the center Jan. 20 about the importance of ecumenism with regards to Roman Catholicism and other Christian denominations. Her talk, “The Gifts and Challenges of the Ecumenical Movement Today,” was one of many events during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012, an international Christian observance occurring at the end of January involving 300 Christian churches.

The professor—a Sister of Charity from Leavenworth, Kansas—affirmed the role of ecumenism in the Church today by opening with a biblical story about a Moabite named Ruth and her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi. That story highlights the importance of loyalty from Ruth to Naomi, exhibited in a long walk that the women took together to Canaan. Both settled in Bethlehem.

“Ruth says, ‘Wherever you go, I will go and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God,’” quoted Wood, who also chairs Marquette’s theology department. “The passage shows the care Ruth had for Naomi during their walk together. The women were from two different communities. This example shows how their kinship back then can serve as a model for ecumenical dialogue today.”

During the 60-minute presentation, Wood stressed that ecumenism was about collaboration and dialogue between Catholicism and other Christian denominations. She herself participates in the U.S. Lutheran–Catholic dialogue, the North American Orthodox–

Catholic Theological Consultation, and ecumenical efforts between the Roman Catholic Church and the Baptist World Alliance.

Wood noted that the 1964 Vatican II decree *Unitatis Redintegratio*—the Decree on Ecumenism—launched Catholicism into the contemporary ecumenical movement.

Her presentation focused on the relationship between Catholics and Lutherans. She also said that ecumenism could occur without either side compromising on their basic tenets of belief. Wood compared the role of dialogue to the first and second harvest. To her, the first harvest represents easy agreements such as the Nicene Creed and baptism. The second “thornier” harvest, she said, represents issues such as the papacy, Scripture, and ministry. Although many challenges remain, she said, much progress has occurred between Lutherans and Catholics over the past decades.

“We have overcome some, but not all, false witnesses that characterize our history,” she said of the relationship between the two churches.

Friendship developed over the course of ecumenical dialogue enables one to view

Christian discipleship through the eyes of another Christian’s faith. Catholics have benefited from the heritage of the Reformers, particularly their emphasis on the Word of God, while other churches have been enriched by the liturgical heritage of the Catholic Church, especially regarding the Eucharistic liturgy and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Challenges include approaching new problems “through the lens of old decision-making patterns,” Wood said. “We should not define ourselves by what someone else is not. We should not suffer existential nausea, that is, a fear of the loss of identity.

“That’s not a fear of the other tradition we are working with, but a fear of losing ourselves,” she added.



Sister Susan Wood, SCL, spoke on “The Gifts and Challenges of the Ecumenical Movement Today” at the Center for Pastoral Leadership, Wickliffe, Ohio.

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Celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in St. Cloud, Minnesota

by Sister Helen Rolfson, OSF, Chair, St. Cloud Diocesan Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns

The Ecumenical Group associated with the twinned Catholic parishes of Sts. Peter and Paul in St. Cloud, Minnesota, were eager to continue a (relatively short) tradition of celebrating a prayer service in conjunction with our neighbors of Atonement Lutheran Church (ELCA) during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The group approached the leadership of Atonement about holding a joint service.

At the time, Atonement was losing its pastor because of cancer; thus, their energies were focused on a search for a new pastor. "Maybe next year..." they suggested.

The Catholic Ecumenical Group, however, small as it is, determined to host the event on their own and set the date for Sunday, Jan. 22. As the planning progressed, Atonement gained a new pastor who was eager to participate in the coming ecumenical service.

The service consisted of Holden Evening Prayer; a reflection by Sister Helen Rolfson, OSF, chair of the Diocesan Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns, on the theme of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; and a pasta supper. Clergy and choir members from both parishes participated.

During the supper, the head pastor of St. Cloud's Place of Hope (a Christian welcoming house for local poor and homeless persons) gave an illustrated talk about the organization's work. A freewill offering was taken to help support this worthy cause.

Bad weather cut down on the number who might have come that Sunday afternoon, but about one hundred people braved the elements to pray together and share a common table. The Sts. Peter and Paul group intends to keep up the tradition with their good neighbors at Atonement.

Week of Prayer in Sacramento Centers Around St. John's Bible

by Father Michael Kiernan, Diocese of Sacramento

I'm glad to share about the blessed event we celebrated for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Sacramento, CA. We really got lucky here. In July, I happened to meet Mr. Jim Triggs, who is the promoter of the Saint John's Bible, Heritage Edition, from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota. I was struck by the beauty of this amazing work, the first handwritten Bible in 500 years, enormously relevant in the times in which we live. It is truly beautiful. I immediately thought, "Wouldn't it be wonderful and effective to use this Bible as a coming together of all Christians during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?"

To make a long story short, Mr. Triggs and I talked, he brought a volume to Sacramento, and we put a plan in place. The beautiful result of all this was a gathering

on Jan. 23, 2012, where Bishop Jaime Soto, other Christian ministers, and three choirs filled the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament (about one thousand people), centered on the Word of God. It was truly a blessed time.

In addition to Bishop Soto, other clergy who offered prayers and gave readings during the service were Pastor Rick Cole of Capital Christian Center, Father Timothy Robinson of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, Father Eric Hollas of the Department of Theology at St. John's University, and Rev. Samuel Rodriguez of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference. The choirs that participated were the Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration

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Ecumenical Service in St. Patrick's Cathedral Opens Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Archdiocese of New York

Archbishop of New York Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan presided over an ecumenical service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Jan. 18. Rev. Dr. A. R. Bernard of the Christian Cultural Center, a mostly African American congregation in Brooklyn, preached the sermon. Other clergy who participated represented Episcopal, Orthodox, Lutheran, Baptist, and Reformed churches, as well as the Roman Catholic Church and the Council of Churches of the City of New York.

Father Robert J. Robbins, director of the Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the archdiocese, described the service as "filled to the rafters."

For a complete article about the event, see http://www.cny.org/detail.html?sub_id=6886&print=1.



The procession to begin the prayer service on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at St. Patrick's Cathedral: Father James Gardiner, SA (with processional cross), followed by Rev. Robert J. Robbins (left), pastor of Holy Family Church and director, of the archdiocesan Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, and Rev. Msgr. Robert T. Ritchie (right), rector of the cathedral.



Archbishop of New York Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan welcomes the near-capacity congregation at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Wednesday, Jan. 18. At the far right is the preacher at the service, the Rev. Dr. A. R. Bernard, Sr., founder, senior pastor, and chief executive officer of the Christian Cultural Center, Brooklyn, New York, and president of the Council of Churches of the City of New York.

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Mass Choir; the children's choir of the Infant Jesus Syro-Malabar Mission; and the choir of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Hollas gave a wonderful talk before the event at a dinner that was well attended by Christian ministers. He was the driving force behind this great Bible and is a splendid presenter.

The evening concluded with a reception and refreshments.

Celebrating Christian Unity in Washington, DC

by Father James Gardiner, SA, Franciscan Monastery, Washington, DC

The 2012 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was inaugurated in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America. Father John W. Crossin, OSFS, PhD, was the homilist at evening prayer for Christian unity. Father Crossin is the executive director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Father Jeremy Harrington, OFM, guardian and commissary of the monastery, presided.

The annual Bethesda-area observance of the Week of Prayer was marked with an ecumenical celebration of the Word of God on Sunday, Jan. 29, at St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Church, Bethesda, Maryland. Ten Roman Catholic, Episcopal, and Protestant

congregations participated. The Rev. Todd Thomas, pastor of the nondenominational Church in Bethesda, gave the homily. He exhorted those gathered to greater love for one another in the realization that we will have perfect unity in the Resurrection. Father Joseph Sileo, pastor of the host church, presided. Carole Wysocki of St. Bartholomew directed the Unity Choir, while Marilyn Converse of Trinity Lutheran Church directed the Heavenly Handbells. A collection was taken up for Bethesda Cares, an organization that helps provide shelter for the homeless.

Dr. Margaret O’Gara, who holds the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto Chair in Systematic Theology at the University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto, received the annual Ecumenism Award from the Washington Theological Consortium and delivered the fourth annual Figel Address on Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Washington Theological Union. Her topic was “Dialogue of Transformation.” The program began with a student-led prayer service for Christian unity at which Father James Gardiner, SA, of the Franciscan Monastery was the homilist.



The Rev. Todd Thomas, pastor of the nondenominational Church in Bethesda (Maryland), preaches at the annual ecumenical service of the Word of God at St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Church.



The Unity Choir Maryland.



Evening Prayer for Christian Unity at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, Washington, DC, Tuesday, Jan. 17. Father John W. Crossin, OSFS (right), executive director of the USCCB Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, was the homilist. Also pictured (left to right): Father James Gardiner, SA; Archimandrite Joseph Lee, Holy Cross Monastery, Washington, DC; and Father Jeremy Harrington, OFM, guardian of the Franciscan Monastery.

Palm Beach (Continued from [page 1](#))

The Diocese of Palm Beach is currently the only diocese in the United States that requires more than a simple academic course in ecumenism for the men in formation. They take up the vocation of calling and inviting our Christian brothers and sisters of other denominations to join with us in prayer for the unity of the Church by preparing and helping to organize events throughout the diocese during the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This year five events were held throughout the Diocese of Palm Beach. The first event was a unity prayer service on Monday, Jan. 16, hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Tequesta. This was both a Christian unity worship service and a service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The other churches that participated were St. Jude Catholic Church, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Tequesta, and St. Peter Catholic Church in Jupiter.

The second event was a unity prayer service on Tuesday, Jan. 17. This event was hosted by St. David-in-the-Pines Episcopal Church of Wellington with the assistance of St. Therese Catholic Church.

The third event was a unity prayer service on Saturday, Jan. 21, hosted by St. Ann Catholic Church of West Palm Beach. St. John Fisher Catholic Church and St. Patrick Episcopal Church of West Palm Beach also participated.

The fourth and fifth events were held Sunday, Jan. 22. Gardens Presbyterian Church of Palm Beach Gardens was the host of a unity prayer service and ministry presentations. St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, North Palm Beach; St. George Episcopal Church, Riviera Beach; Christ Evangelical Baptist Church, West Palm Beach; Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Juno Beach; Tropical Sands Christian Church, Palm Beach Gardens; and St. Mark Episcopal Church, Palm Beach Gardens, also participated.

On the same day, First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach was the host of a Unity Prayer Service. Holy Cross Catholic Church, Christ by-the-Sea Methodist Church, and Christ Church, all of Vero Beach, also participated.



at the annual ecumenical celebration of the Word of God in Bethesda,

Archdiocese of Chicago Focuses on Local Events for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

From Michael Terrien, Obl., OSB, Project Director,
Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs,
Archdiocese of Chicago

The archdiocese of Chicago commemorated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012 through several events throughout the metropolitan area. This local focus enabled Catholics in the archdiocese to meet with and pray with their ecumenical neighbors.

Representatives of the Ecumenical Metro Chicago (EMC; formerly the Ecumenical Millennium Committee), composed of seventeen Catholic, Episcopal, Orthodox, and Protestant churches, facilitated the ecumenical services, which were held throughout the eight days. Besides prayer services, events included a women's breakfast, a potluck supper at the Focolare Center, and an iconology lecture followed by an ecumenical panel and discussion at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Catholic churches that helped prepare events were St. Dismas, Waukegan; St. Joseph Libertyville; St. Isaac Jogues, Niles; St. Martha, Morton Grove; St. Mary, Riverside; St. Christopher, Midlothian; and St. Gertrude, Holy Name Cathedral, St. Stanislaus Kostka, St. Ferdinand, and St. Ailbe, Chicago. (See all participating churches and event locations at <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=210302715999124224896.0004b434a4c3039cb178a&msa=0>.)

In December, Archbishop of Chicago Francis Cardinal George, OMI, sent a letter to the parishes in the archdiocese. The cardinal asked "each parish and each Catholic" to say "one *Our Father*" for Christian unity each day of the Week of Prayer, and to participate in parish and neighborhood activities for the week.

Many parishes ran the cardinal's letter in their weekly bulletin. The parish of St. Isaac Jogues included "A Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Churches" in its bulletin for Jan. 22 (<http://www.sij-parish.com/512032.012212.pdf>).

Although an archdiocesan-wide prayer service is usually held during the Week of Prayer, the annual service will take place Trinity Sunday, June 3, 2012, to maximize the number of EMC churches than can take part.

Also in Chicago ...

Hyde Park Seminaries Host Brother Jeff Gros, FSC

The Hyde Park Cluster of Theological Schools in Chicago invited Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC, to give the homily at their commemoration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 12, 2012, in Augustana Chapel of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Brother Jeff, who is currently a visiting professor at Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois, recounted steps toward Christian unity during the past 50 years on a local, national, and international level:

We could not have imagined where God has taken us to date, and where we are destined to go as the Spirit guides us on this path and provides us with the zeal and imagination to see new directions and to accept new challenges given us in history.

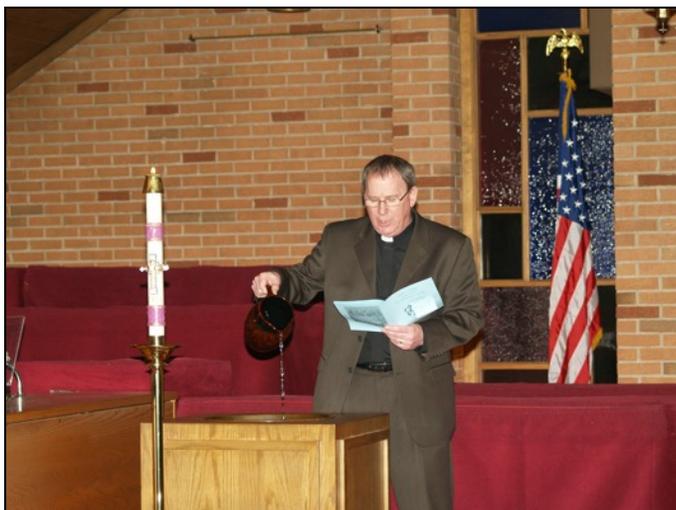
For the complete homily, see <http://www.lstc.edu/chapel/sermons/?a=sermon&id=241>.



Ecumenical youth confirmation class gathering at St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, Riverside, Illinois.



Holy Name Cathedral participated in the ecumenical events, Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Pictures (left to right): Harold Peponis, Judicatory Representative, Greek Orthodox Church, Metropolis of Chicago; Father Donald Senior, President, Catholic Theological Union; Aphrodite Peponis, Judicatory Representative, Greek Orthodox Church, Metropolis of Chicago; Very Reverend Joy Rogers, Dean, St. James Episcopal Cathedral; His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago; Phil Blackwell, Pastor, The Chicago Temple Methodist Church; Father Nicholas Nikokavouras, Dean, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral; Rev. Dr. Simeon Johnson, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral; Rev. Amos Oladipo, African Community United Methodist Church, Chicago.



Pastor Paul Ninnemann of St. Stephen Lutheran Church recalls the common baptism of Christians at a service at St. Christopher Roman Catholic Church, Midlothian, Illinois, Thursday, Jan. 19.



Father Mark Walter gives the sermon at the ecumenical service at St. Christopher.

LARCUM Bishops Attend Prayer Service at Charleston Courthouse

Father Sandy McDonald, Ecumenical Officer, Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina

Bishop Robert Guglielmone of the Diocese of Charleston participated in a LARCUM (Lutheran–Anglican–Roman Catholic–United Methodist) prayer service outside the Federal Courthouse in Charleston, South Carolina, Dec. 19, 2011. The purpose of the service was to pray for the judge, lawmakers, law enforcers, the people of South Carolina, and those affected by the South Carolina law SB20, which legislates a crackdown on undocumented immigrants in the state. Judge Richard Gergel did

place an injunction against parts of SB20 as a result of the lawsuit that was brought against it.

The other bishops who participated were Bishop Andrew Waldo, Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina; Bishop Virginia Taylor, South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church; and Bishop Herman Yoos, South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Bishop Mark Lawrence, Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, was also in support of the initiative but was unable to attend the prayer service.



Pictured left to right: Bishop Herman Yoos, South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; Bishop Andrew Waldo, Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina; Bishop Robert Guglielmone, Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston; Bishop Virginia Taylor, South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Twelve Months of Intercessions for Christian Unity

from Father Tony Bickett, Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky

January. For all who follow Jesus, that they may become one in the fullness of faith, we pray to the Lord.

February. For all who have been consecrated in baptism, that they may remain together in Christ, we pray to the Lord.

March. For Christians everywhere, that they may be kept united in the fellowship of love, we pray to the Lord.

April. For all Christian Churches, that they may work to bring all believers together, we pray to the Lord.

May. For all who proclaim Jesus is Lord, may they grow in the unity of faith and the fellowship of love, we pray to the Lord.

June. For the whole Church, that our communion with Christ will unite Christians in love, we pray to the Lord.

July. For church leaders everywhere, that they may work together and promote unity among Christians, we pray to the Lord.

August. For the Church throughout the world, that we may be united in one faith, one baptism and one Lord, we pray to the Lord.

September. For the various ecumenical dialogues between our church and other denominations, that they may bear witness to the quest for Christian unity, we pray to the Lord.

October. For those who bear witness to Christ, that they always seek the unity that is found in Christ, we pray to the Lord.

November. For all who profess the name of Jesus, that they may work to heal all divisions among Christians, we pray to the Lord.

December. For greater unity in the body of Christ, that together we may better proclaim Jesus as Lord, we pray to the Lord.

Diocese of Cleveland *(Continued from [page 3](#))*

In answer to a question about the role of Pope Benedict XVI in relation to Lutherans from a patristic standpoint, the professor noted that the Pope has had “positive” experiences with members of the Lutheran faith.

Also, Wood distinguished between ecumenism and interreligious dialogue. Ecumenism aims for full visible unity among Christians, while the goal of interreligious dialogue is mutual understanding and enrichment.

The heritage of their respective faith traditions is important for both Catholics and Lutherans and should be preserved during ecumenical dialogue. “We just look for an action respectful of our partner,” she said. “In the end, it should be about awareness of the need for Christian unity. We should not stop talking to each other.”

