

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### ***“Week of Prayer For Christian Unity”***

Theologian, Hans Kung, once said: “There will be no peace among the peoples of the world without peace among the world religions. There will be no peace among the world religions without peace among the Christian Churches.”

Each year, in this third week of January, we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In a very special way, we are called to pray for and work for Christian Unity. In our sinfulness, in this great scandal of division, we humbly cry out – “Lord, that we may be one...”

It is time that religion loses its “imperialism.” Religious imperialism helps to fuel so much of the conflict and violence in our global village.

It is time to live our faith in such a way that we build bridges to bring us together, not walls to separate us.

It is time to glory, each in our own way, in the face of Mystery. It is time to share our faith with each other in prayer and dialogue, respecting and celebrating different beliefs, practices, and rituals that give praise to “The Holy One” who is beyond all understanding.

It is time to realize that there is one God, one people, and one village.

***The Church of St. Thomas More***, in solidarity with the ***First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside***, ***San Marcos Lutheran Church***, and the ***United Methodist Church of Vista***, is helping to sponsor a prayer service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This prayer service is being held on Sunday, January 23, 2005, at 4:00pm at the United Methodist Church of Vista. Pastors and choirs from the four sponsoring Congregations will be participating in this prayer event and invite everyone to come and join in prayer and song for Christian Unity.

This year's theme is **“All things are yours...you belong to Christ...and Christ, the unique foundation, belongs to God.”**

A free will offering will be taken. Proceeds will be directed to Interfaith Coastal Community Services of Oceanside and Operation H.O.P.E. of Vista.

The United Methodist Church of Vista is the new Church just north of us on Melrose Avenue. The address is 490 South Melrose Avenue.

I invite you to join us for prayer!  
Lord, that we may be one!

