

Pastor's Column

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“Christian Unity Week – Where Two or Three Are Gathered in My Name...”

In the midst of January, all Christian Churches are invited to participate in a “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.”

The goals of this annual week are to remind all Christians of the scandal of our divisions, to create an ever deeper longing for unity as the Body of Christ, and to beg God for the grace and strength necessary to dedicate the ministries of the Churches in bringing all Christians closer together as brothers and sisters.

This week the St. Thomas More Faith Community is participating in two events to help foster these goals.

The first event takes place on Sunday, January 15, at 4:00pm. The Church of St. Thomas More is hosting an *Ecumenical Prayer Service*. The theme of the Service is “Where Two or Three Are Gathered in My Name...”

Participating in this prayer event are *San Marcos Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside,*

Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, North Coast United Methodist Church, United Methodist Church of Vista, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Vista, and St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Oceanside.

The choirs of the various congregations will be present and will join together to lead the assembly in songs of praise.

I encourage as many of our Parish Family as possible to be present and to welcome our Christian brothers and sisters from the other Congregations and to join in this celebration.

A reception, hosted by our Parish Organization and Events Committee, will take place on the Plaza immediately following the Service.

The second event to mark the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” is “Meet Our South Melrose Drive Christian Neighbors” sponsored by our Adult Faith Formation Committee. This event will be on

Wednesday, January 18, at 6:00pm.

The event will begin with a potluck, followed by an informal exchange by representatives of several Churches located on South Melrose Drive.

Participating will be *Rev. Aleni Fepuleai, Pastor of Vista Samoan Seventh Day Adventist Church; Shauna Magnusen, First Reader at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Carlsbad-Vista; Rev. Lynne Austin, Pastor of The United Methodist Church of Vista; and Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Church.*

Again, you are strongly encouraged to attend, participate, and welcome our neighbors to our Parish Community!

As we pray during this “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,” may our prayer be the prayer of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: “May they be one, Father, as we are one.” (John 17:11)

F. Mike