

Pastor's Column

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Theologian, Rev. 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 the 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 in union with Jesus his prayer and desire—"That they all may be one..." (John 17:21)

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.

This year's theme is ***You Are Witnesses of These Things*** (Luke 24:48)

May this yearly celebration and special prayer for Christian Unity spur all of us on to enter into closer relationship with our brothers and sisters of different Christian Traditions, and may it also encourage us to become better acquainted with all the world religions.

Our global village is small and getting smaller each day...

Fr. Mike