

10 Occasions for Ecumenical Celebrations

1. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25)
2. Martin Luther King Birthday (Third Monday in January)
3. World Day of Prayer (First Friday in March)
4. Ash Wednesday and/or Lent
5. Palm Sunday
6. Good Friday
7. Easter
8. Pentecost
9. All Souls Day/Day of the Dead (November 2)
10. World Aids Day (December 1)

10 Projects to Promote Ecumenical Involvement

1. In conjunction with your pastor, discuss the feasibility of an ecumenical and interfaith committee.
2. Encourage clergy participation in local ministerial associations and alliances.
3. Make the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18 – 25) the centerpiece of your efforts.
4. Include neighboring congregations and faith communities in the Sunday intercessions.
5. Systematically learn the denominational and local history of neighboring churches and faith communities.
6. Exchange – and read – parish bulletins and newsletters.
7. Get to know your neighbors better through social events. E.g. concerts, choir festivals, lectures, pot luck suppers.
8. Exchange program ideas – and programs – with similar organizations; schedule joint programs on topics and issues of mutual interest.
9. Create or augment an ecumenical – and interfaith – section in the local public library.
10. Subscribe to *Ecumenical Trends* for your pastor.

10 Reasons to Pray for Unity

1. Prayer is the soul of the ecumenical movement. *Decree on Ecumenism, Vatican II*
2. Jesus' own prayer to the Father on the eve of his death was "that they may all be one" (Jn 17: 21).
3. If Christians, despite their divisions, can grow ever more united in common prayer around Christ, they will grow in the awareness of how little divides them in comparison to what unites them. If they meet more often and more regularly before Christ in prayer, they will be able to gain the courage to face all the painful human reality of their divisions, and they will find themselves together once more in that community of the Church which Christ constantly builds up in the Holy Spirit, in spite of all weaknesses and human limitations. *Pope John Paul II, Ut unum sint*
4. "The ecumenical movement needs visible signs of Christian unity, and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is one of them. For churches in Slovakia, it is perhaps the most visible sign of what members of different churches in our country have in common."

Ondrej Prostednik, general secretary of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia, Prayer - visible sign and instrument of Christian unity.

5. Christ the Lord founded one church and one church only; division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel. *Decree on Ecumenism Unitatis redintegratio, Vatican II*
6. Prayer, with a great sweep of wings, rises above all differences and makes it possible for us all to rest together in the Heart of Christ. *Abbé Paul Couturier*
7. Prayer is the way by which God accomplishes things; first He makes His servants ask and then by His power He accomplishes their request. So that this Unity Octave originating here at Graymoor will be a potential power to bring the very thing to accomplishment which our feeble intellects are not able to measure outwardly and to comprehend. *Fr. Paul Wattson*
8. Prayer, in its energy and power, may be likened to that invisible something in the material world which we call electricity; like the wind, we see its visible effects but the secret of its tremendous influence cannot be fathomed. *Fr. Paul Wattson*
9. (P)ayer will always gather people, in the same way as Mary and the apostles gathered, to pray for the coming of the Spirit which will unite the peoples in one language, and to pray for a renewed Pentecost (Acts 1.13f) *Cardinal Walter Kasper, Vatican's Pontifical Council for promoting Christian Unity, That They May All Be One: The Call to Unity Today.*
10. Ecumenical work...is a spiritual task and can be nothing other than participation in the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus...This means prayer, especially common ecumenical prayer, for the unity of Christians... *Cardinal Walter Kasper, Vatican's Pontifical Council for promoting Christian Unity, That They May All Be One: The Call to Unity Today.*

10 Steps for an Essay Contest

1. Identify an audience. (e.g. high school students through school religion departments or parish religion education programs.)
2. Invite co-sponsors. (e.g. arch/diocesan ecumenical office, local Council of Churches, arch/diocesan newspaper)
3. Select a theme. (Consider using the scriptural theme of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.)
4. Determine the length of an eligible essay. (Co-sponsors, especially if there are plans to publish winning essays, are most helpful.)
5. Make a promotion plan. (e.g. advertisements in church publications, parish bulletins.)
6. Assemble judges. (Make sure the judges are ecumenically as well as contestant sensitive; don't overlook the religion writer for the local paper.)
7. Determine the number of winners. (and, if necessary, the number of categories.)
8. Provide prizes. (e.g. gift certificate or cash prize as well as publication)
9. Choose publication venue. (e.g. the arch/diocesan newspaper and/or local newspaper.)
10. Arrange for an awards ceremony. (e.g. a school assemble, meeting of the local ministerial association.)