

ONE IN COMMUNION, ONE IN MISSION



You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

—Luke 10:27

I urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.

—St. Paul, Letter to the Ephesians

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THE WAY OF UNITY

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

—St. Paul, First Letter to the Corinthians

UNITY THROUGH COMMUNION

Union with Christ is also union with all those to whom he gives himself. I cannot possess Christ just for myself; I can belong to him only in union with all those who have become, or who will become, his own. Communion draws me out of myself towards him, and thus also towards unity with all Christians. We become “one body”, completely joined in a single existence.

—Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* (14)

BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

We urge you, brothers and sisters, admonish the idle, cheer the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with all. See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good for each other and for all.

—St. Paul, First Letter to the Thessalonians

PRESERVING HARMONY BETWEEN FAITH AND LIFE

No damage must be done to the harmony between faith and life: *the unity of the Church* is damaged not only by Christians who reject or distort the truths of faith but also by those who disregard the moral obligations to which they are called by the Gospel. The Apostles decisively rejected any separation between the commitment of the heart and the actions which express or prove it. And ever since Apostolic times the Church’s Pastors have unambiguously condemned the behavior of those who fostered division by their teaching or by their actions.

—Pope John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor* (26)



SPEAKING WITH THOSE WHO CHALLENGE

No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear....All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.

—St. Paul, Letter to the Ephesians

THE EUCHARIST: SOURCE AND SIGN OF UNITY

As often as the sacrifice of the cross in which Christ our Passover was sacrificed is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried on, and, in the sacrament of the eucharistic bread, the unity of all believers who form one body in Christ is both expressed and brought about....Giving the body unity through Himself and through His power and inner joining of the members, the Spirit produces and urges love among the believers.

— Pope Paul VI, *Lumen Gentium* (3, 7)

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE

I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.

—John 17: 22-23

THE CHURCH AS SACRAMENT OF UNITY

The Sunday Eucharist which every week gathers Christians together as God's family round the table of the Word and the Bread of Life is also the most natural antidote to dispersion. It is the privileged place where communion is ceaselessly proclaimed and nurtured. Precisely through sharing in the Eucharist, *the Lord's Day* also becomes *the Day of the Church*, when she can effectively exercise her role as the sacrament of unity.

—Pope John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (36)

UNITY PRESERVES DIVERSITY

Just as a family does not submerge the identities of its individual members, just as the Church rejoices in each "new creation" incorporated by Baptism into her living Body, so too the unity of the human family does not submerge the identities of individuals, peoples and cultures, but makes them more transparent to each other and links them more closely in their legitimate diversity.

—Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* (36)

GIFT OF SELF FOR UNITY

Never stop urging your faithful, as they approach the Mystery of the Eucharist, to learn to embrace the Church's cause as their own, to pray to God without slackening, to offer themselves to God as an acceptable sacrifice for the peace and unity of the Church; so that all the children of the Church may be united and feel united and there may be no divisions among them but rather unity ...

—Pope Paul VI, *Mysterium Fidei* (70)

UNITED IN SERVICE OF THE CHURCH

We owe ourselves and all we have to the Church; may we work each day only in her name and by her authority and may we properly carry out the duties committed to us, and may we be joined together in fraternal unity and thus strive to serve her in that perfect way in which she ought to be served.

—Pope John XXIII, *Sacerdotii Nostri Primordia* (34)

