

**Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Prayer Meeting
January 13, 2013
“May they all be one”: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Lynn Cothorn**

This week begins the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25

From the Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio*:

7. There can be no ecumenism worthy of the name without a change of heart. For it is from renewal of the inner life of our minds, from self-denial and an unstinted love that desires of unity take their rise and develop in a mature way. We should therefore pray to the Holy Spirit for the grace to be genuinely self-denying, humble, gentle in the service of others, and to have an attitude of brotherly generosity towards them....

8. This change of heart and holiness of life, along with public and private prayer for the unity of Christians, should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement, and merits the name, "spiritual ecumenism."

Resources for Study and Prayer

Unitatis Redintegratio, Decree on Ecumenism:

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19641121_unitatis-redintegratio_en.html

Ut Unum Sint: On commitment to Ecumenism:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25051995_ut-unum-sint_en.html

Paul Couturier's Spiritual Testament: <http://paulcouturier.faithweb.com/pctest01.htm>

Resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and throughout the year 2013, "What does God require of us?" (cf. Micah 6:6-8):

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/weeks-prayer-doc/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_20120611_week-prayer-2013_en.html

Bl. Maria Gabriella Sagheddu in *New Saints and Blesseds of the Catholic Church*, by Ferdinand Holbock (Ignatius Pr., 2000).

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Abbé Paul Couturier’s Prayer

Grant that all Christians may love one another without reserve.
You alone can bring this to pass.
Grant that we may love you with an unbounded love.
The things which we have in common - your Book, your Baptism,
our faith in you, in your incarnation, in your redemption, and indeed many
other beliefs,
all this unites us indissolubly,
making us in you, and through you,
children of your Father.
But the things which separate us
unite us even more closely - though in a different way -
than the things which we have in common.
For the things which separate us are the causes of intense suffering,
the suffering of being separated in our thoughts concerning your Church.
And there is nothing that draws us together
and unites us more closely than suffering.
O Christ, make us suffer so intensely by reason of our separation
that your prayer within us may penetrate us,
may take possession of us,
have free course in us,
and ascend to your Father. (20)



Blessed Maria Gabriella Sagheddu, pray for us!
Trappist (b. 1914, d. 1939)
Beatified January 25, 1983