



News from the
Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach

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NEWS RELEASE

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE MARKS EVENTS FOR WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

JANUARY 17 – 24TH 2010

For the first time in the history of the Diocese of Palm Beach, a number of events have been coordinated by the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity celebrated throughout the Church this year from January 17-24th. The theme for this year is “*You are witnesses of these things.*” (Luke 24:48)

The Church Unity Octave, a forerunner of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, was developed by Father Paul Wattson, SA, at Graymoor in Garrison, New York, and was first observed there from January 18-25, 1908, noting the feast of the Chair of St. Peter at the beginning and the conversion of St. Paul at the end. Today, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites the whole Christian community throughout the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus “that they all may be one” (*John 17:21*).

In 1966, the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Vatican Secretariat (now Council) for Promoting Christian Unity began collaborating as a common international text for worldwide usage.

The events of the week have been scheduled through the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach and its committee under the direction of Deacon Dennis Demes. The Diocesan committee includes Monsignor Leonard Badia, Sr. Roberta Popara, O.P., of Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center, North Palm Beach, and diaconal candidate Jerry Bott of Holy Family Parish in Port Saint Lucie. Diocesan Committee Diaconal Candidate Thomas Gallagher of St. Jude’s in Boca served as coordinator of events for this year.

Bishop Barbarito will mark the annual observance to coincide with the birthday with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at St. Ignatius Cathedral. **The 25th Anniversary of the Peace and Justice Interfaith Prayer Service in Honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 18, 2010, at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola, 9999 N. Military Trail in Palm Beach Gardens.** Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop of Palm Beach will preside. The main speaker for the evening is Dr. Ron Archer, pastor of The Chapel of the Palm Beaches in Palm Beach Gardens and the theme for this year’s celebration is “Walk Together Children, Don’t you get Weary.”

Other events are as follows:

January 18 Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service at 7:00 PM St. Bernadette Catholic Church. Participating will be Pastor Julius Abdias, New Jerusalem Worship Center; Pastor Mark Greene, Westside Baptist Church; Rev. Jack Krch, All Villages Presbyterian Church; Pastor Renee Lawrence, United Methodist Church; Pastor Jim Mory, Faith Congregational Church; Rev. Mary Rosendahl, Episcopal Church of the Nativity; and Fr. Victor Ulto, Pastor of St. Bernadette Catholic Church, diaconal candidate Steve Dove, coordinator.

January 18 “*You are Witnesses to these things: A prayer service for Christian Unity*” St. Peter’s Catholic Church, Jupiter, 7:00 PM. Deacon Byron Champaign presiding assisted by diaconal students Serge Dube, John Bartalini, John Collins and David Kochansky, Wayne Topper of St. Clair’s and Lester Loh of St. Jude’s, Tequesta.

January 18th Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Therese de Lisieux parish in Wellington with invited congregants from St. David in the Pines Episcopal Church, 7:30 PM. Revs. Steven Thomas of St. David’s and Fr. Brian Lenhart of St. Therese, assisted by diaconal candidate Bob Rodriguez and diaconal student Pete DelValle.

January 19th – “You are Witnesses of these Things” St. Helen Catholic Church, Vero Beach, 7:00 PM. Revs. Jack Diehl, Our Savior Lutheran Church; Wes Emult, of the First United Methodist Church; Michael Goldberg, St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, Fr. Michael Edwards, pastor of St. Helen’s assisted by diaconal candidate Charles Weir.

January 19 - First United Methodist Church Boca Raton, an ecumenical evening of renewal and recovery.

January 20th, St. Joan of Arc Parish, Boca Raton at 5:00 PM entitled “United in Christ: An Inspirational After-School Event Featuring God’s Children”

January 21 “Compline” or “Night Prayer” with the Rosary at St. David of the Pines Episcopal Church with St. Therese de Lisieux, 7:30 PM..

January 22nd St. John of the Cross, Vero Beach, 7:00 PM. Rev. Roger Ball, Emmanuel Church; Michael Goldberg, St. Augustine’s Episcopal; Derrick West, First Baptist Church of Vero Beach, and Fr. John Pasquini, pastor of St. John of the Cross, assisted by diaconal student Dennis Beauregard.

January 22nd First United Methodist, Boca Raton, “Liturgy of the Hours” with Rev. Gary Webb, Associate Pastor, and Deacon Bill Ferguson of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Boca Raton. Assisting ministers will be diaconal students and candidates Les Loh, of St. Jude’s in Tequesta; Antonio Mares of Queen of Peace Our Lady Queen of Peace, Delray; Gerry Palermo of St. Thomas More in Boynton Beach, and Rusty Skinner of St. Vincent’s in Delray.

January 24th “Christian Unity Prayer with Lessons and Carols” Holy Cross Church, Vero Beach with the Revs. Jack Diehl, Senior Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church; Rev. Dawn Reichard, Senior Pastor, Christ-by the Sea Methodist Church; Robert Stuhl, Senior Pastor of Christ’s Church; Rev. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian; Fr. Richard Murphy, Pastor of Holy Cross and assisted by diaconal student Dr. Wayne Creelman.

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