



Office of the Archbishop
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2030
312.534.8230
archchicago.org

January 12, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As each new year begins, Christians around the world devote time to pray for our unity in Christ. From January 18-25, known as the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, we reflect deeply on Jesus' prayer for his disciples to remain one as he and the Father are one, "that the world may believe" (John 17:21). Our prayer for Christian unity furthers evangelization, which is central to *Renew My Church* and one of the core principles of the Second Vatican Council.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches annually select ecumenical leaders from diverse geographical regions to prepare the theme and text for the Week of Prayer. The 2021 theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity— "Abide in my love... you shall bear much fruit"—was prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp, located in Switzerland. A joining of phrases from John 15:9 and John 15:5, it expresses their vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family. Jesus reminds his disciples that he is the vine and we are the branches. If we abide in him, we will bear much fruit. In these times of growing ecumenical witness, the different Christian communities are realizing that to bear fruit, they cannot live on their own and still authentically proclaim the Gospel to all creatures.

During this year's "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity," I strongly encourage you to spend time in prayer for unity among Christ's followers. Please find a moment each day during this week to ask the Holy Spirit to enter into the hearts of all Christians to assist in drawing us ever closer to one another in Christ.

Please visit the website of the Archdiocesan Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (EIA) at <https://eia.archchicago.org/ecumenical-relations/what-are-ecumenical-relations/WPCU> for more information, including prayers, reflections, and online gatherings. You will also find a link to a radio discussion on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with Dr. Dan Olsen, Director of the EIA Office, and Rev. Courtney Reid, Director of Operations and the Nicholas Center of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. <https://radiotv.archchicago.org/radio/catholic-chicago>

The EIA Office is available to answer any questions you may have on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Thank you for your prayers as together we heed the call to pursue oneness in Christ.

Wishing you every blessing, with kind regards I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blase Cupich".
Archbishop of Chicago