

Office for Unity on Thursday 27th May 2021

Meditation Text

Let God's voice speak to our hearts

Lord Ian Ernest, Roma's Anglican Center Director

We shall find once again the final expression of what we are, as we live in a community of life, faith and love. This community finds its strength in God, source of all love. We become what we are when we accept to live with others, despite our differences. Aren't we committed to love ourselves and to love others like God loves us? In this way we shall accomplish the ministry of reconciliation, that is when we recognize in others Christ's image. Jesus is the perfect example and he is the incarnation of the ministry of reconciliation. Totally human but One with God, Jesus choose to stand up to embarrassing situations, to misunderstandings, to rejection and to scorn. All these things tarnish human relationships, but He takes the risk to become vulnerable to put right our state of vulnerability, cracks and breaking off.

(....)

When the desire to come close to others is aroused within us, without fear and in complete freedom, we then honor God's mystery. In silence, we do not look for understanding, but simply for the recognition of God's mystery that is love for oneself and love for the other. So as to become true ambassadors we have to pray for those who are different from us: reconciliation takes place not because of us but because of God. God calls us to an emotional honesty with ourselves and with others. Let God's voice, which is love speak to our hearts.

Extract from the exhortation by Lord Ian Ernest, Mauritian and Roma's Anglican Center Director, on the occasion of "Just the beginning's festival", in Grand Baie, on 25th July 2019.

Intercessions

Prepared by our brothers and sisters from Mauritius Island.

To adapt according to the place of worship.

1/On Mauritius island, an Ecumenical Council, gathering people in charge of different Churches (Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian, Pentecostal and Evangelical) signed in 2010 a charter of good understanding.

Lord we entrust to you the next meeting in July: may decisions lean towards opening to other Churches, with honest and merciful concerns as regard to sensitive questions.

2/ Next October in the south of the island an ecumenical space is planned, it will be accessible to all who seek to know the other better and who want to train in ecumenism. Chemin Neuf Community is particularly invested in that weekend preparation.

May your spirit stir up in everyone the desire to participate to this retreat so as to turn together towards You and work fervently for the unity You desire for your Church.

3/On this Pentecost Saturday, the International Service for the catholic charismatic renewal "CHARIS", organized an on line evening gathering, with brothers and sisters from other churches.

May you continue to set ablaze the hearts, which seek the unity of your Body. Grant us to be able to love as you wish. Give us to enter into your immense desire that all may be one. May we long to answer this prayer.

The prayer service for Unity has been prepared by our brothers and sisters from Saragossa (Spain). To download the meditation text ("the Holy Spirit gathers" by Pastor Bill Johnson) and the intercessions, click on this link: tinyurl.com/2ubvgteb

Intercessions:

1/ Saturday 15th May 2021, on the occasion of a gathering organized by the Italian charismatic Council, which gathers Catholics and Pentecostals, Pope Francis addressed a message underlining the importance of "Brotherhood with Christ" and of the road covered between Christians of both denominations.

Lord, may your Holy Spirit let mutual fears fade and may it allow us to witness together to this potential road of reconciled diversities.

2/ Two years ago, CHARIS was set up as a communion service within the Catholic church over all the charismatic groups in the world to spread together the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit, to work for the unity of Christians and to be at the service of the poor.

Lord, we entrust to you this Pentecost ecumenical evening. May your Holy Spirit set ablaze the whole world with your fire of love and grant us to build together you Body.

3/ Recently, violent armed confrontation between Gaza and Israel has surfaced and risks degenerating in a spiral of death and destruction.

Lord, we implore you, may Israelites and Palestinians find the way of dialogue and forgiveness and as they look ahead step by step to a common hope and a coexistence between brothers may they become peace and justice builders.

4/ Last week we celebrated Christ the Risen One with the people in charge and the members of the different Christian Churches of Zaragoza living a contemplative time of the texts from the resurrection, "Via Lucis".

Lord, we praise you for this shared prayer time and for the grace of brotherhood. May the Holy Spirit transform us into daring witnesses of the Resurrected Christ and show us the way to live more fully this grace of Unity.