Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2009

“That all may be one
that the world may believe” (John 17:21)

ICON OF ST. PETER AND ST. ANDREW

The original of this icon hangs in the conference room of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The icon depicts the two brothers, Saint Peter (patron of the Church of Rome) and Saint Andrew (patron of the Orthodox Church of Constantinople) embracing each other. It was given by Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople to Pope Paul VI at the first historical meeting of the two Church leaders at Jerusalem in 1964 since the division took place in 1054 AD. The icon therefore symbolizes the task before the two churches, to bring about the unity willed by Christ between the two churches and all Christians.
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2009

Some Background

Each year, the Catholic Church keeps an Octave for Christian Unity called the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18-25. This Octave is kept because of the Church’s commitment to the prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper, in which Jesus prayed “that they all may be one” (John 17:21). At the Second Vatican Council, the Council decided that the realization of that unity in accordance with the prayer of Jesus was an ecumenical imperative. The Council further stated that “it is a recognized custom for Catholics to have frequent recourse to that prayer for the unity of the Church which the Savior Himself on the eve of His death so fervently appealed to His Father: "That they may all be one" (Decree on Ecumenism #8). The Council also said that «such as the prescribed prayers "for unity," and during ecumenical gatherings, it is allowable, indeed desirable that Catholics should join in prayer with their separated brethren. Such prayers in common are certainly an effective means of obtaining the grace of unity, and they are a true expression of the ties which still bind Catholics to their separated brethren. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"» (Decree of Ecumenism, # 8). Against this background, the Catholic Church each year since 1966, through the Vatican Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, prepares in collaboration with the World Council of Churches (WCC) a theme and materials for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The theme for 2009

The theme for the Week of Prayer for 2009 is: “That they may become one in your hand” (Ezekiel 37:15-19,22-24). This Sunday we join with many other Christians to celebrate what God is doing through the many ecumenical agencies — local, regional, national and international — that make up the modern ecumenical movement. As we go through the week, we commit our special prayers “that all may be one... that the world may believe” (John 17:21). The Octave for the Week of Prayer will conclude on Sunday, January 25, which this year will be observed in a special celebration to mark the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul for the Jubilee Year of Saint Paul (June 29, 2008 to June 29, 2009). Prayer for Christian Unity leads us to conversion of heart. The Second Vatican Council underlines this conversion in saying that “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.” Praying for the unity of Christians is therefore a call from Christ to which Catholics respond from the highest level of church life to the parish level.

Fr. John M. Mbinda

Please pray for the repose of my Dad

Joseph Purayidathil Sr.
who passed away on Monday
at 6 pm (Indian time). He was 84.
May his soul rest in peace!
-Fr. Tom

*Pastor’s Corner*  
*Rev. Thomas Purayidathil, Ph.D.*
Sunday Reflection

Fr. John M. Mbinda

January 18, 2009: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
Readings: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19; 1 Cor. 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
This account of the prophetic call of Samuel prefigures the call by Christ to discipleship. God’s word calls and invites. The call of Samuel, which is a call to be a prophet, serves as a type of Christ’s baptism, the Father’s call and Jesus’ response. Like Jesus in his baptism, Samuel hears the call of God and responds with the words, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” The experience of Samuel’s call by God and his response is meant to underline both his listening and discerning God’s will, and acting accordingly.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
Psalm 40 is a continuation of God’s call to Samuel and his response. The psalm reinforces the idea that Samuel’s call and response is a type of Christ’s call and response. It is Christ who indeed responds to the Father. Response: “Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
The context of Paul’s argument in this text is a discussion on immoral sexual behavior in the Corinthian Christian community. Influenced both by Greek philosophy and the prevailing immorality of a prosperous port city, some members of the community seemed to think that if they were spiritually enlightened, behavior did not matter. It even appears that one of Paul’s central messages had been misunderstood. The doctrine that in Christ we are freed from slavery to the flesh and to the law seems to have given some of them a good excuse for immoral behavior, which Paul points out is a reversion to enslavement. Paul seeks to bring their way of acting into line with their commitment to Christ.

Gospel: John 1:35-42
In this passage, John shows a close connection between the call of the first disciples with the ministry of John the Baptist. John points to Jesus walking by and says, “Behold the Lamb of God.” The true disciple of John is one who listens to John’s word and begins to inquire by asking Jesus, “where are you staying?” Then Jesus invites them to “Come and see.” The word “staying” in John’s theology means “abiding.” He uses that word in reference to the Son abiding in the Father. That is what the two disciples really go to see with their eyes of faith. Here there is more than just seeing. The disciples stay with Jesus that day, which implies an experience of who Jesus is in relation to the Father and the Holy Spirit. After this experience, Andrew invited his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. Thus through the first disciples other relatives and friends hear the invitation to “come and see” and thereafter to dwell with Jesus.

FOOD PANTRY NOTICE

The rectory office will be closed on Monday, January 19. The Food Pantry distribution will be on Tuesday, January 20.

Hilo Roman Catholic Community Mission
Statement: We, the Hilo Roman Catholic Community of St. Joseph and Malia Puka O Kalani, guided by the Holy Spirit, Our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, gather as a family of believers in the celebration of the Eucharist. Blessed with many cultures, talents and inspired by the Hawaiian tradition of Aloha, we pledge to share our heritage, our gifts and the principles of our faith, and to commit ourselves to the educational, social and spiritual needs of all our brothers and sisters.

FOOD PANTRY NOTICE

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Scripture Readings

Sunday, Jan. 18
1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19
Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20
Jn 1:35-42

Monday, Jan. 19
Heb 5:1-10
Ps 110:1-4
Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday, Jan. 20
Heb 6:10-20
Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c
Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday, Jan. 21
Heb 7:1-3, 15-17
Ps 110:1-4
Mk 3:1-6

Thursday, Jan. 22
Heb 7:25-8:6
Ps 40:7-10, 17
Mk 3:7-12

Friday, Jan. 23
Heb 8:6-13
Ps 85:8, 10-14
Mk 3:13-19

Saturday, Jan. 24
Heb 9:2-3, 11-14
Ps 47:2-3, 6-9
Mk 3:20-21

Sunday, Jan. 25
Jon 3:1-5, 10
Ps 25:4-9
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mk 1:14-20
St. Paul and Prayer
Four lessons gleaned from the Apostle of the Gentiles

Behind St. Paul’s boundless energy as apostle, missionary, pastor and theologian (as well as tentmaker!) must have been an extraordinary prayer life. Indeed many references to St. Paul in the Acts of the Apostles show him as a man of prayer (Acts 9:11; 13:3; 14:23; 16:13, 25; 19:6; 20:36; 22:17; 28:8, 15). Moreover, it is hard to exaggerate the ways in which the Apostle has enriched the prayer life of the Church.

The Pauline corpus, i.e., all 13 documents in the New Testament attributed to Paul, consists of letters, most of which were most likely proclaimed at liturgical gatherings. In addition to instruction, they contain greetings, prayers, hymns, reflections on Old Testament passages, all reflective of the worship of the early Church. For 2,000 years, they have never ceased to be incorporated into Christian liturgy.

In the Latin rite, more often than not, the priest’s greeting either quotes one of the greetings from St. Paul’s letters or imitates the Apostle’s habitual greeting of “grace and peace.” In addition, frequently, a Pauline letter or an account concerning him from the Acts of the Apostles precedes the Gospel. Moreover, the Liturgy of the Hours, as well as celebration of the other sacraments, are filled with readings from St. Paul and the canticles taken from his letters.

His effect on our prayer life through the liturgy is obvious. But what did he leave us in the way of direct teaching about prayer—especially personal prayer?

Two sets of challenges make writing about Paul’s teaching on prayer difficult. On the one hand, Paul left us no systematic treatment of the topic. Nor is the intention of his letters to offer us a spiritual journal, although the rare times he does disclose details of personal prayer experiences are instructive.

His description of “a man whether in the body or out of the body” (2 Cor 12:2-4) and his references to his own gift of tongues (1 Cor 14:18) assure us that he had mystical experiences. But while he often reported his constant intercession and thanksgiving for others, he was reticent about revealing personal details about the depths of his personal prayer, in part because he was well aware that extraordinary graces in prayer could be occasions for pride and distraction from that most important of spiritual gifts: love.

In addition to an absence of a systematic treatment of prayer or personal details about his own prayer, a further challenge in summarizing St. Paul’s teaching about prayer comes from the fact that almost everything he wrote pertains to prayer, at least indirectly. It is evident that much prayer went into his writings—whether the topic is pastoral, ethical, theological, or spiritual. And over the course of two millennia, much prayer has come out of his writings: many passages in his letters that are not already a prayer either can be converted easily into a vocal prayer by altering a word or two. Furthermore, his letters are exceptionally conducive to meditation.

“Pray without ceasing!” (1 Thes 5:17)

For St. Paul, the line between theology and prayer—and indeed between all of Christian life and prayer—was thin or nonexistent. That, in itself, is an important lesson. So close is the connection between nearly every verse in St. Paul’s writing and prayer that it is nearly impossible in many cases to distinguish passages that pertain to prayer from those that do not.

It is not uncommon for Paul to erupt suddenly into prayer in the middle of a discourse (Rom 11:33-36), or to use a prayer (of his own composition or previously in use by early Christians [e.g., Phil 2:6-11], we can leave for Pauline scholars to debate) to make a theological or an ethical point (lex orandi, lex credenda).

continued on page 5
Because of the relevance of nearly all of his writing to the topic of prayer, it is not surprising that the Pauline corpus is essential to the common teaching about prayer shared by all Christians. His influence on Catholic catechesis on prayer can be seen in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. In Part Four, “Christian Prayer,” there are 424 footnotes. Of these, 344 refer to Scripture and of these, 87 to writings in the Pauline corpus. Beyond catechesis, the whole Christian spiritual tradition is indebted to St. Paul.

One of my favorite spiritual classics, The Way of a Pilgrim by an anonymous Russian peasant, is literally the account of a spiritual journey in which the pilgrim seeks how to put one verse of St. Paul into practice (1 Thes 5:17, “Pray without ceasing”). St. Teresa of Ávila, St. John of the Cross, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, indeed spiritual writers from the early Church to the present, representing all the great Christian traditions make numerous references to St. Paul.

To this tradition of 2,000 years of praying with St. Paul, I will not attempt to add anything original, let alone something systematic and comprehensive. My goal is simply to use this reflection during this year of St. Paul to highlight four areas concerning his understanding of prayer in order to help stoke the fire of my own prayer life and hopefully that of deacons, fellow priests, and all who read this article.

“The Holy Spirit intercedes for us!” (Rom 8:26)

There are many ways of praying, and St. Paul seems to have experienced and to have referred to the full range. I have already mentioned his rare allusions to his own charismatic and mystical experiences. Much more common are his references to the importance of intercessory prayer, thanksgiving, and praise which St. Paul refers to as “boasting in the Lord” (2 Cor 10:17). In all of this Paul is deeply aware of our need for humility and recognizing the role of the Holy Spirit.

In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groaning” (Rom 8:26).

As part of this series for the Year of St. Paul, the July issue of The Priest included an excerpt from Pope Benedict SVI’s book, The Apostles. There the Holy Father referred to St. Paul’s emphasis on the Holy Spirit in prayer.

Paul teaches us … that there is no true prayer without the presence of the Holy Spirit within us … It is as if to say that the Spirit of the Father and the Son, is henceforth, as it were, the soul of our soul, the most secret part of our being, from which our impulse of prayer rises ceaselessly to God, whose words we cannot even begin to explain .. [Prayer involves] a great and vital communion with the Spirit. It is an invitation to be increasingly sensitive, more attentive to the presence of the Spirit in us, to transform it into prayer, to feel this presence and there to learn to pray, to speak to the Father as children in the Holy Spirit…” (The Priest 64.7, July 2008, pp. 37-45, here p. 42).

“Lord, what would you have me do?” (Acts 22:10)

St. Paul models for us the integration of prayer and life. One of the very first prayers that St. Paul ever addressed to Christ became his life’s quest, a quest that we do well to imitate. Dietrich von Hildebrand in Transformation in Christ (Sophia, Manchester, N.H., 1990, p 9) speaks of this quest as “an unquenchable thirst for regeneration in all things … the bliss of flying into Christ’s arms who will transform us by His light beyond any measure we might ourselves intend. We must say, as did St. Paul on the road to Damascus: ‘Lord, what wilt Thou have me do?’”

In Acts of the Apostles, St. Paul often refers to Christ’s answers to this ongoing prayer in terms of being guided by the Spirit of Christ (e.g. Acts 16:7) as he decides the best course in his missionary journeys and indeed the beginning of what was probably the final journey. So docile had St. Paul become to the will of Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that in his farewell discourse to the Ephesian elders at Miletus he refers to himself as “bound by” or “a captive of” the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:22).

St. Paul teaches that prayer is invaluable not only for discernment of Christ’s will in our lives, but also for growing in the virtues needed to carry it out. Galatians 5:22 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 remind us that contemplation, a gift of the Spirit, burns away faults and produces virtues (Thomas Dubay, The Fire Within, pp. 64 and 183). And it works both ways. The more we grow in both discerning and doing the will of God, the deeper, in turn, our prayer life becomes.

Continued next week
Fr. Joe and Fr. Emmanuel share a light moment.

Parish youth and young adults pose for a quick photo as they enjoy Café Night.

Busy taking pictures for the bulletin and bulletin board, photographer extraordinaire Joyce Saenz.

I remember when I could…

Sr. Ruth and Sr. Marykutty with Fr. Joe.

Sr. Barbara Jean & Sr. Stephen Marie with Fr. Joe.

PPAC chair Anna Texiera makes a quick check before the festivities begin!

St. Joseph parishioners visit with Fr. Joseph Hennen.
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CELEBRATES
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK & HOMECOMING

Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education and its contribution to communities and the nation. Next week the Church and communities nationwide will focus on the important role of Catholic schools in providing a values-added education for America’s young people and making the world a better place for all. SJS combines Homecoming Week with this observance.

The St. Joseph School ‘ohana is grateful to God, the Diocese of Honolulu, Hawaii Island parishes and community, and in a special way the priests and parishioners of St. Joseph and Malia Puka O Kalani for fourteen decades of spiritual guidance, leadership, service, and moral and financial support.

The 2009 theme is Catholic Schools Celebrate Service, underscoring the great commitment Catholic education has to community service. As a part of our effort to teach the whole child, St. Joseph School instills a lifelong commitment to serving others. By teaching our students about civic engagement and providing them with opportunities to serve, we equip them with the tools they need to fulfill their future roles as good citizens, productive employees and compassionate leaders.

From preschool through senior year, SJS students reach out beyond themselves and their families in service to others – volunteering in schools, churches and other settings; reading to keiki, ministering in youth Masses and entertaining kupuna; donating school supplies, food and stuffed animals; and reaching out to their brothers and sisters in hundreds of ways. We thank all who assist with and provide service learning opportunities for our Cardinal students.

Next Saturday, January 24th, 9:00-11:00 am, St. Joseph School is hosting an Open House for prospective students. We especially invite our parish families to come to this event to learn about our school, its offerings and financial aid. We especially want to tell you about our preparations to become a School of the Future (see separate article). We are very grateful to the Hilo Roman Catholic Community for its contribution to the SJS financial aid fund to assist eligible parishioners.

We invite parishioners and their families and friends to join in the celebration of Catholic Schools and Homecoming weeks. For additional information, please call (808) 933-1459.

March For Life In Hilo
Sponsored by Hawai’i Right To Life – Hilo

WHEN: Thursday, January 22, 2009  4-6 pm
WHERE: Kilauea & Aupuni (new courthouse)
WHY: To pray for our nation in this 36th year of ROE V WADE  (Signs will be provided)
WHAT: The “holocaust by scalpel” that has seen an entire class of human beings (over 49,000,000) wiped out because they are ‘inconvenient’ to other members of society

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are LIFE.

The MARCH FOR LIFE is the collective effort of grassroots prolife Americans to assure that our laws protect the right to life of each human being. An important step is adoption of a Mandatory HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENT to the Constitution of the United States. Such an amendment would require that individuals and society provide protection for the right to life of each human being in existence at fertilization. It would require that State laws conform to the Constitution and provide the same protection.

We stand in solidarity with the HONOLULU MARCH FOR LIFE at the State Capitol with speakers Bishop Silva, Lt. Governor Duke Aiona, As well as with the WASHINGTON D.C. MARCH FOR LIFE which will attract hundreds of thousands of participants.
**Mahalo**
from Fr. Joe Hennen

I write this after a deeply emotional “A Hui Hou” celebration at Malia after the 9:00 am Mass and at St. Joseph’s after the 6:00 pm Mass on Sunday, January 11, 2009. Words cannot express the depth of gratitude I feel toward all of you. During my short time with you, you have given me much more than I could possibly have given to you. I will carry you in my heart and hold you in the palm of my hands as I pray in thanksgiving to God for the gifts He has given me.

I hope you will not consider it rude of me if I do not send an individual “Mahalo” card to those of you who wrote me messages and gave me gifts. Be assured that I will pray that the Lord will bless you in a manner much greater than my individual note. I am very grateful.

I also remain very grateful to Fr. Tom, our pastor. He has already invited me back for Holy Week and Easter even if, at that time, I cannot stay with you permanently. God willing, I accept the invitation. As you will remain in my prayers I again ask for your prayers. Our journey on earth is uncertain. However, we are all certain of God’s love and protection regardless of where our journey takes us. No matter what happens to you and me, we can confidently say, “A Hui Hou.” Fr. Joe

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**Financial Notes: January 11, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE**
- Adults 84
- Children 17

**Koa Bowl** $1,169.00

*The estimated average Koa Bowl Collection needed each week to support ourselves is: $1,500.00 - Fr. Joe*

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**Saint Joseph Food Pantry**
- 1/05/09: 91 persons served

**Malia Food Pantry**
- 1/07/09: 20 persons served
A Hui Hou
BRUNCH
for Father Joseph Hennen
SUNDAY, Jan. 18
7:00 pm  Young Adults Ministry/St. Joseph Rectory Library

MONDAY, Jan. 19
“Martin Luther King, Jr. Day”
Holiday—Rectory Office Closed
7:00 am  Mass/St. Joseph Church—NO 12:15 pm Mass
1:00 pm  Spiritual Support Group/St. Joseph Church Breezeway
6:00 pm  RCIA Classes/St. Joseph Rectory Library

TUESDAY, Jan. 20
7:00 am  St. Joseph School Mass/St. Joseph Elementary Chapel
12:00 pm  Food Pantry/St. Joseph Church
6:00 pm  Small Christian Community/St. Joseph Rectory Library
7:00 pm  Basic Christian Community/YMI
7:00 pm  Novena (Rosary 6:30 pm)/St. Joseph Church

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 21
12:00 pm  Food Pantry/Maui Puko O Kalani Church
7:00 pm  Alabare Choir Rehearsal/St. Joseph Church

THURSDAY, Jan. 22
5:30 pm  Cursillo Group/St. Joseph Rectory Library
7:00 pm  St. Joseph Choir Rehearsal/St. Joseph Rectory Library
7:00 pm  Filipino Mass/St. Joseph Church

FRIDAY, Jan. 23
7:00 am  St. Joseph School Mass/St. Joseph Elementary Chapel
5:00 pm  Holy Hour/St. Joseph Church
6:00 pm  Benediction/St. Joseph Church

SATURDAY, Jan. 24
7:45 am  Church Cleaners #5/St. Joseph Church
10:00 am  Adult Scripture Study/St. Joseph Rectory Library
2:00 pm  Youth Executive Board Meeting/St. Joseph Rectory Library
6:00 pm  Youth & Young Adult Choir Rehearsal/St. Joseph Rectory Library
7:00 pm  Spanish Mass & Fellowship/St. Joseph Church & Rectory Meeting Room

SUNDAY, Jan. 25
10:15 am  Religious Ed Classes/SJHS
11:30 am  Youth Mass/St. Joseph Church
7:00 pm  Young Adults Ministry/St. Joseph Rectory Library

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR:

► January 18, 2009 (Sunday)
No Class

► January 25, 2009 (Sunday)
R.E. Classes at St. Joseph Jr/Sr High School

► February 1, 2009 (Sunday)
R.E. Classes at St. Joseph Jr/Sr High School

Important Date for those students in sacramental preparation classes:

► April 11, 2009 (Saturday)
The R.C.I.A. candidates are welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

► April 19, 2009 (Sunday)
First Communion Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 am for the students in the Religious Education program and those students in the St. Joseph elementary school.

► May 2, 2009 (Saturday)
Confirmation will be celebrated at 10:00 am for those candidates preparing for the sacrament.
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331-4357 (HELP)

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