

January 1, 2008

Dear Father,

As you are aware, each year the Church celebrates **January 18-25** as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This week of prayer constitutes an ideal time to bring to our people an awareness of the ecumenical mission of the Church. In addition, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity provides us with an excellent opportunity for our parishes and institutions to deepen our ecumenical spiritual life in union with our fellow Christians.

The 2008 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity marks 100 years since the Society of the Atonement began praying for Christian unity. Today, the tradition continues with the encouragement of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches' Faith and Order Commission.

The theme for the 2008 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is "**Pray without ceasing**" (1 Thessalonians 5:12a, 13b-18).

With this in mind, I write to encourage you and to give you permission to observe **Sunday, January 20, 2008**, as a special day of prayer for Christian Unity and to substitute the prayers of the Mass of the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time with the prayers of the Mass for the Unity of Christians (#13, Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, A or B, Sacramentary, p 889-891). In addition, you are free to use either the Preface for Christian Unity (#76 in the Sacramentary) or the new Eucharistic Prayer I, "The Church on the Way to Unity," with its proper Preface.

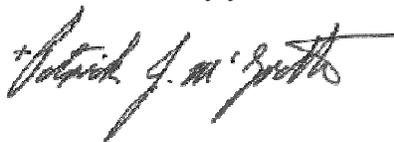
I would also request that you include a petition for the unity of all Christians in the Prayer of the Faithful on that day.

Lastly, although the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity traditionally focuses on our relations with other Christians, I would like to encourage you to keep in mind the importance of doing all that we can to maintain good relations with the leaders of the many non-Christian religions that abound in Santa Clara County.

I thank you for your generosity in ministry and, in particular, for your attention to the ecumenical and inter-faith endeavors.

With every best wish and kind regard, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. McGrath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick J. McGrath
Bishop of San José