

PRAYERS for CHRISTIAN UNITY

by

Bl Paul Couturier, an Apostle of Unity

Lord, for the low importance we have given to those words that came from your Heart: "I have other sheep not from this fold. I must also bring them; they too shall hear my voice":

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

For our disagreements with our Christian brothers and sisters, sometimes full of irony, or narrowness of spirit, or exaggeration; for our intransigence and harsh judgments about other Christians and Churches:

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

For all acts of violence or unkindness against our fellow Christians; for all in the past and sustained to this day for which we are to blame:

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

For all attitudes of pride and self-sufficiency that our Churches may have shown across the ages to other Christians, and for all our failures of awareness or understanding towards each other:

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

For the bad examples in our conduct, which have slowed down, diminished or destroyed the effects of grace in the souls of others:

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

For forgetting to offer prayer, frequent, friendly, fervent, on behalf of our fellow Christians:

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

Above the frontiers of language, race and nation, through all our rich difference and diversity:

Unite us, Jesus.

With Christians who are persecuted and in need, with our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters across the world and in our midst:

Unite us, Jesus.

Above our ignorance, our prejudices, or any unconscious hostility, through better understanding and ever closer communion:

Unite us, Jesus.

Above our different spiritual and theological traditions, in one spirit, one Bread and one Body:

Unite us, Jesus.

O God, for the increase of your glory:

Gather your scattered people.

O God, for the triumph of good and of truth:

Gather your scattered people.

O God, that there may be but one fold and one Shepherd:

Gather your scattered people.

O God, that justice and peace may finally reign in the world:

Gather your scattered people.

O God, to bring fullness of joy to the heart of your Son:

Gather your scattered people.

Lord Jesus,
who prayed that we might all be one,
we pray to You for the unity of Christians,
according to Your will,
according to Your means.
May Your Spirit enable us
to experience the suffering
caused by division,
to see our sin,
and to hope beyond all hope. Amen.

From the SCOTTISH PRAYERBOOK

OGOD the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all enmity and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that as there is but one Body and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart and of one soul united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MOST gracious God, we humbly beseech thee for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth; in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where any thing is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it; where it is divided and rent asunder, make it whole again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.