



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

UNITED STATES | CANADA

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

January 2024

-Gift of Diversity in the Church-

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals of the Catholic Church.

Pope's Prayer USA Video, popesprayerusa.net

Pope Video, thepopevideo.org

Reflection by Philip Kosloski

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (United States)

Catholic Writer, Husband, and Father. Recently he created a Catholic comic book series with Voyage Comics at voyagecomics.com

St. John Paul II famously wrote in his encyclical, *Ut Unum Sint*, "the Church must breathe with her two lungs!" He was referring to the "lungs" of East and West, praying and hoping that someday the Church would be fully united in her rich diversity of rituals and traditions.

In many ways this has already begun to take place, as the Church in recent centuries has sought to repair the damage that was done in the past, healing the division between East and West.

What many Catholics don't realize is that the Church is very big and diverse, encompassing 23 distinct and unique churches, such as the Byzantine, Maronite and Coptic Rites to name a few.

Pope Francis this month urges us to recognize and appreciate this diversity. He spoke on this topic at a general audience in 2014.

"The most beautiful experience, though, is the discovery of all the different charisms and all the gifts of his Spirit that the Father showers on his Church! This must not be seen as a reason for confusion, for discomfort: they are all gifts that God gives to the Christian community, in order that it may grow in harmony, in the faith and in his love, as one body, the Body of Christ. The same Spirit who bestows this diversity of charisms unites the Church. It is always the same Spirit."

As we celebrate the Week of Prayer of Christian Unity, may we unite underneath the banner of the Pope and rejoice in the many different ways the Holy Spirit has inspired the Church throughout the centuries.



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[Leader] Daily offering prayer: O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.
I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart:
the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians.
I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer,
and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month—

***JANUARY: We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of
different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of
different traditions and rituals of the Catholic Church.***

Grace: Lord I pray for the grace to be able to see that within our local communities we
are able to use our charisms for the greater glory of God and it is good, may our love for
tradition unify us always in the truth and richness of what the church teaches.

[Reader] Scripture: “As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body,
though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.” 1
Corinthians 12:12-13

[Reader 2] Quote: “The most beautiful experience, though, is the discovery of *all the different
charisms* and all the gifts of his Spirit that the Father showers on his Church! This must not be
seen as a reason for confusion, for discomfort: they are all gifts that God gives to the Christian
community, in order that it may grow in harmony, in the faith and in his love, as one body, the
Body of Christ. The same Spirit who bestows this diversity of charisms unites the Church.”
(Pope Francis, [General Audience](#))

[Leader] Reflection questions: What is a gift that comes from having different people with
different gifts or talents at work or school? Have you experienced going to Mass at a different
church in a different city, state, or country? What was similar about all of them? Reflect on the
gift of Jesus in the Eucharist being the source and summit of our Catholic Faith.