

Ecumenical Info: Octave of Christian Unity
by Rev. Michael Demkovich, OP

Many people wonder what they can do to be ecumenical. They think it is only something done at the highest levels of the Church. But there is another kind of ecumenism that takes place in our neighborhoods and places of work – it is “grass roots” ecumenism. It is the ecumenism that happens when we try to appreciate our friends from different denominations. Why do they go to services when we go to Mass? How come they speak of synods when we would call them dioceses? “Grass root” ecumenism happens when we try to understand at a deeper level what is most core to being the Church, when we work toward reconciliation.

Each January Christians take time to pray for and promote true unity. It is called the week or octave of Christian Unity and always marks the feast of St. Paul’s conversion. These eight days call all Christians to follow Christ more fully and to heal our divisions. This year the Ecumenical Commission of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe has a way for you to enter into this time of unity in your home, neighborhood and community. Each day you might try to do something with your fellow Christians that promotes unity and understanding within the Church. The box on “The Octave” gives some ideas of ways to foster ecumenism both in oneself and in the Church, among our friends and neighbors. They are only a help and you can mix them any way you see fit. You can do them at home or in a church. They involve study and prayer, feast and fast, faith and hope.

Please set aside time before January 18th to find ways to find ways that you can foster ecumenism with friends, co-workers, relatives. The Octave of Christian Unity is something each one of us can do to foster ecumenism, but we need to take the time. May the witness of St. Paul, his conversion to the Faith, show us the way to be One, for it was Christ’s own prayer for us –“that all may be one.”

BOX

The Octave of Christian Unity January 18-25, 2005		
	Day	Theme
I	Wednesday	Study Day: What does the Catholic Church Teach us about Ecumenism?
II	Thursday	The Word of God Makes Us One
III	Friday	Day of Fast
IV	Saturday	Sing a New Song to the Lord
V	Sunday	Christ Be Our Light
VI	Monday	Day of Personal Prayer
VII	Tuesday	Ecumenical Prayer and Pot Luck
VIII	Wednesday	We Believe: Creed & Conversion
More information & details on line at http://www.archdiocesasantafe.org/		