

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Ind.

News Section

● League of Prayer for Unity

THIS LEAGUE is a pious union for prayers and good works established by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor, Garrison, N. Y.

(1) To increase interest in the Chair of Unity Octave and to sustain this interest throughout the year so that continual prayer would be offered for the return to Catholic Unity of those outside the fold; (2) The urgency of the times and the widespread interest among non-Catholics in Christian Unity.

On February 21, 1956 the League was enriched with many indulgences from the Holy See. It is placed under the protection of Our Lady of the Atonement, the special patroness of Christian Unity. The principal feast of the League members is that of our Lady of the Atonement, Mother of Unity, July 9.

Purposes: The purposes of the League of Prayer for Unity are the offering of prayer and sacrifices for (1) the conversion of non-Catholics; (2) the return of lapsed Catholics to the faith; (3) the speedy realization of the missionary objectives of the Catholic Church; (4) the strengthening of the virtues of faith, hope, and charity—the internal bonds of unity—among the faithful.

Duties: (1) To recite the Chair of Unity Octave prayer (prayer to Our Lady is recommended, but optional); (2) To observe publicly, if possible, the Chair of Unity Octave, January 18-25; (3) To offer other prayers and good works for the cause of Christian Unity.

League Prayer

Chair of Unity Prayer: That they all may be one as Thou Father in Me and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

V. I say unto thee that thou art Peter.

R. And upon this Rock I will build My Church.

Let us pray: O Lord Jesus Christ, Who saidst unto Thine Apostles: Peace I leave with you, My Peace I give unto you, regard not our sins, but the faith of Thy Church and grant unto her that peace and unity which are agreeable to Thy will. Who livest and reignest God forever and ever. Amen. (300 days indul.)

Membership: Any Catholic may join the League of Prayer for Unity by sending his name to the Father Director, Graymoor, Garrison, N. Y. It is recommended that priest members pray for Christian Unity when they offer Holy Mass, especially on Thursday; that religious and laity offer prayers and good works for this intention; that all members seek to spread the League among other Catholics. There are no dues.

Pray Daily for Unity

Pray for the Church and Souls

Beg Our Lady that "All May Be One"

● **PRAYERS.** Deceased: Richard McArdle, '37; wife of Ted Halpin, '32; wife of Robert Brown, '57. Ill: Father of Mike McAdams of Lyons; friend of Pat Gingley of Alumni; Dr. Theodore Just, former head, Dep't. of Biology. One special intention.

● **BISHOP PURSLEY** urges all to read the following prayer, to reflect on its meaning, and to say it with fervor during the Chair of Unity Octave and at other times, too.

Litany for Church Unity

For thinking too little of these words issuing from Your divine heart: "I have other sheep that are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice."

Forgive us, O Lord.

For controversies marked by irony, suspicion and exaggeration, for lack of understanding, for unfeeling judgment concerning our non-Catholic brethren . . .

Forgive us, O Lord.

For the acts of violence and the injustices we have tolerated in the course of history against our Protestant brethren . . .

Forgive us, O Lord.

For proud complacent attitudes shown in times past towards our Orthodox brethren, and for our present indifference to them . . .

Forgive us, O Lord.

For the poor example of our behavior, which has often delayed, diminished or destroyed the work of grace in the souls of our non-Catholic brethren . . .

Forgive us, O Lord.

For neglecting to pray for them with a prayer that is frequent, fervent and fraternal . . .

Forgive us, O Lord.

Above all frontiers of language, race and nation . . .

Make us one people, O Lord.

Above our ignorance, our prejudice, our fears . . .

Make us one people, O Lord.

O God, for your greater glory . . .

Make us one again in Christ.

O God, that goodness and truth may prevail . . .

Make us one again in Christ.

O God, that there may be but one fold and one shepherd . . .

Make us one again in Christ.

O God, to destroy the pride of Satan and his collaborators . . .

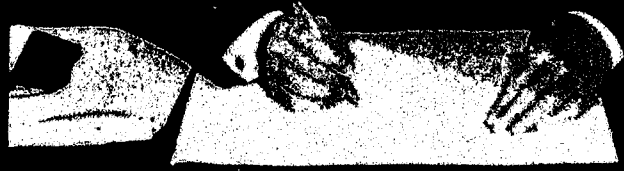
Make us one again in Christ.

O God, that peace may finally reign in the world . . .

Make us one again in Christ.

O God, to bring joy to the heart of your Son . . .

Make us one again in Christ.



What's Wrong With It?

I'll tell you. It indicates either a lack of self-control or just plain thoughtlessness. The fellow who wrongly uses the name of God breaks the law that God set down for us when He said, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain." What's more, it shows little regard for our dignity as creatures of God. It degrades a man.

The man of character uses the faculty of speech reasonably. He is careful not to abuse it. He does not substitute profanity for clear thinking. He is aware that decent men find such poverty of thought not only embarrassing, but "bad for business." Why waste a God-given life, being Satan's mouth-piece?

Why Cut It Out?

Words have power. A Catholic, much more than others, should be aware of this. For, through the words of consecration spoken by the priest in the Mass, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. Words and intention bring about the presence of God Himself. And as a Catholic, you know also that only two small words are sufficient to unite a man and woman for life in holy Matrimony. You will remember too going to confession and hearing the priest absolve you from your sins through the Holy Name: "May our Lord Jesus Christ absolve you . . ." And who can put into words what it means to him to go to Communion and have the priest place the Sacred Host on his tongue with the words: "May the Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ keep your soul unto life everlasting." How weak can memories be, when the very same man in just a matter of minutes thoughtlessly abuses the same Holy Name?

Your non-Catholic friends know you're a Catholic. They see in you a representative of the Church, a product of Her teachings and Her sacraments. 'Little wonder then that they're not only surprised, but often scandalized when a Catholic uses profanity or fails to let his dislike for the misuse of God's Holy Name be known.

What can a man expect when one minute he prays in the name of Jesus Christ and in the next uses His name disrespectfully? Who benefits from it — the speaker? the man who has to hear him? The lips that ask for sanctifying grace one moment can drive it out in another. Remember that divine warning, "On the day of judgment you will account for every idle word."

What Can You Do About It?

In baseball you can't *steal* to get on first. You've either got to get a hit or be walked. Overcoming a habit of profanity is sort of similar. You have to swing out at this habit. Once you're on, once you've proved that the Devil can be hit like any pitcher can, then you're on the way. Play it cagey on the base paths, and who knows, you may start a rally!

Helpful Hints . . .

1. Prayer. Get in the habit of talking *with* God, instead of *against* Him. When Our Lord rests on your tongue in Communion, ask Him to give you the courage to use clean, manly speech befitting a man. . . . Invoke the Holy Spirit to keep you mindful of the respect you should show for the name of Jesus.

2. Be strict with yourself. Have a set policy as to penances you'll impose on yourself when you slip, and develop the use of some harmless words with which to let off steam. Always keep in mind that eventually this life will end and you will see God face to face.

3. Frequent Confession. In confessing your sins, be sure to give details where profanity is concerned. And the grace from this sacrament could be just that added strength you need to win out over this habit.

Gene Boorman, C.C.
Student Chaplain