

Non-Catholics Started It.

Back in 1907, two Episcopal ministers promoted an Octave of Prayer for the return of the entire Christian world to communion with the Apostolic See. Sincere men, they realized that Christ's truth was one, as all truth must be, and therefore that His followers should be united. Christ had prayed His last night for all who should believe in Him, "That they all may be one".

The first fruits of their prayer was the conversion of one of themselves, the Reverend Paul Francis, and also his community of several Anglican friars and nuns. Forming themselves into a new society of religious in the Church, this Franciscan Society of the Atonement has labored constantly for reunion, especially promoting the Church Unity Octave successfully throughout the world.

This Octave is observed annually from January 18, Sunday the feast of St. Peter's Chair at Rome, to January 25, the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

But its observance is not limited to the Roman Church, either. There are very active adherents in the Episcopal Church in America and in the Church of England. Some few years ago about one fourth of the 20,000 Anglican clergy in England and America signed pledges to pray for and work for the reunion of all Christendom with the Roman See. Each year the number of non-Catholic participants has increased.

This participation by them does not mean necessarily that they accept Catholicism, but it does mean that they recognize the evils of disunity and the desirability of union of all Christians - to accomplish Christ's prayer for His followers: "That they all may be one."

For Your Friends and Self.

This Octave period is a time of special graces for conversions.

Almost everyone here has some relative or friend who is a non-Catholic or lapsed Catholic. Write out the names and place them in the Novena Box in your hall and they will share in your prayers and in the Mass said each day for all names entered.

Some of you often express concern over your girl's non-Catholic faith - and rightly so. Put her name in too: and all next week you can and should be praying at Mass and during Communion for:

1. Light and help for those friends.
2. Light and help for yourself in exams.

The Miracle of Wine.

The Gospel Sunday relates the marriage feast in which Our Lady, careful to save her host-friends from embarrassment or harm, asked her Son to work a miracle; and He did.

Christ's answer in some older English translations seems to be a rebuke, "What is that to me and to thee, woman?". The revised New Testament now gives the better translation quoting Christ, "What would'st thou have me to do, woman?", and we might add, the term "Woman" was an honorable address in the language spoken by Our Lord.

This Gospel story annually recalls her continual and effective intercession for her friends and also Her Son's loving care for us not only in our spiritual but even temporal needs.

Saturday is her day. Honor her at Mass.

PRAYERS: (deceased) two relatives of Ed Fuenger (Al); sister of Brother Coleman, C.S.C. Ill, grandfather of Ed Schaaf (Bro); friend of Paul Hannagan (B.P.) Nine Spec. Ints.