

"A wise son maketh the father glad: but a foolish son is the sorrow of his mother."

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"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord: but they that deal faithfully please him."

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What Are We Praying For?

The unity which all men of good will desire in these dark days cannot be had apart from Jesus Christ. Everyone who professes to be a Christian admits this. Nor can this unity be achieved by multiplying material things. Matter itself is the principle of division. The same acre of land, the same head of cattle, or the same hat on your head cannot simultaneously and exclusively belong to more than one man.

On the other hand, however, St. Augustine teaches that the same spiritual goods can belong at one and the same time and integrally to all men in general and to each individual man in particular. . . without conflict. We can possess the same truth, the same goodness, the same virtue, as justice and charity, the same God.

The unity which Christ offers is that of one fold and one shepherd. This will come about when all men accept the One Christ Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. The Octave aims to secure for all men this unity in Christ.

The founder of the Chair of Unity Octave declared: "There is no other unity possible in the divine economy save that which is built upon the same foundation as the one on which Christ Jesus, the Lord and Master, founded His Church, and you know what that foundation is: ' . . . And I say to thee that thou art Peter, and upon this Rock, I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven (by which he meant the Church) and whatever thou shalt bind upon earth shall be bound also in heaven, and whatever thou shalt loose upon earth shall be loosed also in heaven.'"

Why We Pray For Conversions.

It is not the enhancement of the temporal glory of the Roman Catholic Church. It is not to apply to religion the old American penchant for "the largest in the world," or "the greatest in captivity," as Barnum would call it.

It is true that in Apologetics the universality of the Church is valid proof of her divinity; and a proof of her universality, or catholicity, is the fact that she is spread all over the world and numbers within her fold all races, all cultural levels of society, rich and poor, learned and ignorant, young and old. But the Church is more mindful of what Christ said to Pilate, "My Kingdom is not of this world."

The Church's first anxiety is the salvation of souls--individual souls, inside the fold and outside the fold. That's the reason for her existence.

A misconception held by many non-Catholics (and by some ill-informed Catholics too) is that only Catholics can be saved. Nothing could be farther from the truth. No one knows better than the Catholic Church that outside her fold many will be saved (how many, God alone knows) because, in good faith, they follow their conscience and have perfect sorrow for sin based on the love of God.

But the fact that these souls are saved in this extraordinary way does not excuse her from carrying out her divine mission to "preach the Gospel to every creature," does not excuse her from trying to give these people the advantages of the ordinary way of salvation which Christ entrusted to the Church He founded on the Rock of Peter.

The Church recognizes and never ceases to admire the virtuous lives led by so many good people outside her fold. But she regrets they are not of the "One Fold and One Shepherd." Therefore she prays, as Christ prayed, for Unity. She prays, and all good Catholics pray with her, for the conversion of all who hear not her voice.

Prayers: (deceased) aunt of Dick Wollensak (Alu); father of Jerry Hurtgen, '51. Ill: an alumnus. 10 special intentions.