

Fr. Martin's Reflection – January 22, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend falls in the middle of Christian Unity Week, January 18-25. I know I should have said something last weekend but unfortunately it slipped my mind as did the marking of Martin Luther King Day. Christian unity, and the unity of all God's people is at the core of us living out our Christian faith. Jesus prayed the world would know that we know him by our love for each other, and by our unity with one another in the Gospel. We find this in John 13:34-35 **"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."** And later Jesus prays for us to the Father in John 17:20-23 **"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."**

Even though we may not always agree on every point, we should always strive to respect each other, and love one another as God the Father loves us.

Prayer

God, Creator and Redeemer of all things, teach us to look inward to be grounded in your loving Spirit, so that we may go outward in wisdom and courage to always choose the path of love and justice. This we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May God bless you with many blessings this coming week, and may you share those blessings with everyone you meet.

Fr. Martin