

## Homily given by Fr. Curt Kreml at Northern Deanery meeting on March 28, 2015

In this Gospel we hear the high priest Caiaphas remark that Jesus would die in order to gather into one the dispersed children of God. This gathering into one takes place when people see in the crucified Jesus the Love God has for them. It is the experience of being loved by Jesus that attracts people to Him. When people do come to belief in Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit, they are then united with Him and with all other believers as well, forming the Mystical Body of Christ. It is NOT a matter of a person receiving a "piece" of God's Spirit; but rather each believer is drawn into and participates in something greater than themselves, the very life of God. This is how God gathers into one His dispersed children.

Participating in the Life of the Holy Spirit is the common bond that unites all people. That participation takes the form of loving others as Jesus has loved us. So it is God's love-spirit working through believers that brings about Unity from the diversity of our human personalities.

I have noted that the Northern Deanery's theme for 2 years is "One Body, One Voice". If that theme is to become a lived reality, then it is important for you to practice the behaviors that help to create and sustain unity within your affiliation. Some of those are:

1. speak with honesty – be certain what you say is true and not speculation. Don't exaggerate to impress. Don't hold back information that would help the group.
2. speak with authenticity – Don't speak out of "both sides of your mouth", saying one thing to some people and another thing to others. Say what YOU truly believe and not what you think will please others. Speak with the goal of searching for what is right and what is best for the group.
3. speak with love – Whatever may be your differences maintain an attitude of friendship and goodwill toward each person.

You will become "One body, one voice" when each CCW member is docile and responsive to the Holy Spirit. Prayerfully SEEK the guidance of the Holy Spirit and then be OPEN to the Spirit's promptings. The Holy Spirit is the source of unity among you, so listen to voice of the Holy Spirit. The voice of the Holy Spirit will direct you toward that which is best for the affiliation.

What is best is arrived at through dialogue and consensus. Consensus simply means that everyone can live with the proposal, even though you might not agree with it fully.

LISTEN to the other and be Honest with yourself: another's view may be better for the group than yours. LISTEN to the other and speak with authenticity – don't be manipulating, and avoid domineering the process. Don't pull any power plays just to get your way.

LISTEN with love for each person and your love for the affiliation. Be willing to sacrifice your point of view and support what the group decides.

These LOVE ATTITUDES are the operations of the Holy Spirit and they are what will bring UNITY to the group. These attitudes and actions will help to create One Body, One Voice to the work of the affiliation. Reducing division, dissension, jealousy and competition.

God delights in your theme and shares His love spirit with you so that you can indeed bring about "One Body, One voice" and be gathered by Him into the Oneness of His Mystical Body.