

SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR A ZEALOUS HEART

UNITY

1) THE PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING

- Christ bestowed unity on his Church from the beginning” (Unitatis Redintegratio 4)
- Christ always gives his Church the gift of unity, but the Church must always pray and work to maintain, reinforce and perfect the unity that Christ wills for her.
- This is why Jesus himself prayed at the hour of his Passion, and does not cease praying to his Father, for the unity of his disciples: *“That they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be one in us,... so that the world may know that you have sent me.” John 17*

2) DIVISION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

- contradicts the will of Christ
- scandalizes the world
- damages the cause of preaching the Gospel

3) A CALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The desire to recover the unity of all Christians is a gift of Christ and a call of the Holy Spirit (CCC 820)
- **Certain things are required in order to respond ad a permanent renewal** of the Church in greater fidelity to her vocation
- *conversion of heart* as the faithful ‘try to live holier lives according to the Gospel’
- *prayer in common*, because ‘change of heart and holiness of life, along with public and private prayer for the unity of Christians, should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement...’
- *fraternal knowledge* of each other
- *ecumenical formation* of the faithful and especially of priests
- *dialogue* among theologians and meetings among Christians of the different churches and communities
- *collaboration* among Christians in various areas of service to mankind
- a permanent renewal of the church in greater fidelity to her vocation

PRAYER: Ask for the grace to forgive those who have spoken uncharitably towards you regarding unity.

ACTION: Examine yourself and the ways you have sinned against unity and bring it to the sacrament of confession.

