

7th Sunday of Easter, C Cycle, 5-25-19

Lifting up to heaven Jesus prayed, saying “Holy Father, I pray not only for them but for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they all may be one, as you Father, are in me and I in you, that they may also be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.

That they may be one. Repeat after me THAT THEY MAY BE ONE. The will of the Father is that they may be one.

Key question for today: How do we go about making the communities that we are part of one in mind and heart?

How do we do it here at church? First of all, we welcome people. This parish developed a special way of welcoming people after the devastating riot/rebellion of 1967. Blacks began to move into this white neighborhood. The priests and staff knocked on each door in asking every white family to stay and every new black family to come. It took twenty years of hard work, but what resulted was a spirit of welcome which this parish is well known for.

I pray Father that they all may be one.

Jesus' approach: He would ask people : What do you want me to do for you? We might want to do the same.

I pray Father that they all may be one.

A new experience in our parish is a program named Visiting Our Neighbors: We visit the people in the neighborhood, introduce ourselves and share who we are and how we serve. Then we ask them if there is anything they wish us to pray with them for anything. We are one with the Father in his call for unity.

Last week I joined the group and visited some of the homes on Trinity Street.

1st home encounter: Woman answers the door.

First we let her know where we are located: Next to Henry Ford HS

Then we asked, "Do you have any children? We let them know of the youth programs for children this summer.

- **Camp age: 5-12**
- **Sports camp age 10-16**

We talked about the new medical clinic across the street

We asked if they have a church home and shared the many opportunity to grow in the Lord at Corpus Christi/

- **Programs for youth and family**
- **Christian Service and St. Vincent de Paul**
- **Other programs which could serve their spiritual needs**

I pray Father that they all may be one.

Next home: Young adult man who has bought a house on auction and fixed it up. He is a maintenance man at an apartment complex in Southfield. He is an active member of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church. We ask if he would like us to pray for anything and he says yes, for the neighborhood.

I pray Father that they all may be one.

Next home: no adults but there are four boys ages 10 to 14 playing basketball. We ask if they can dunk the ball yet. They are interested in the summer camps. We pray together with them that the Lord may keep them safe and invite them to Sunday services.

I pray Father that they all may be one.

Next home: Woman in her late 20s sitting on the porch with her four month old child. She has just gotten home from working at the post office and is relaxing outside. We find out she was raised at St. Gregory Parish and her family knows Fr. DeHondt, her former pastor there. She has good memories of the parish but has fallen away from the Church, yet still a prayerful person. We ask if her child has been baptized and she says, No. We invite her to mass and encourage her to get her child baptized.

I pray Father that they all may be one.

Next home: teenage boy answers the door; he is a junior at Henry Ford HS. He likes it there. We pray with him for a while that he will be successful in his life journey.

I pray Father that they all may be one.

Next home: a woman opens the door before we knock. She sees our Corpus Christi shirts and asks about the head start program at our

school. She has a young child and would like to enroll him there. We give her information on it and pray with her for her family.

I pray Father that they all may be one.

Each of us are called to prayer. As the Body of Christ each of us are called to bring this broken and disjointed world into one with the Father.

Families are called to be one: There is a family in our parish who has Sunday dinner every Sunday. Their home is open to their adult children, grandchildren and any wandering clergy who have no place to go. They call their family together.

I pray Father that they all may be one.

Giving someone a call whom you have not seen for a while.

I pray Father that they all may be one.

How about trying this montra for the week: That all may be one (in our school, in our family, at our job, in our country, in our neighborhood).