

GRAYMOOR TODAY

Published by the Franciscan Friars & Sisters of the Atonement-Graymoor

Founders' Thoughts



Fr. Paul Wattson, SA

Prayer, in its energy and power, may be likened to that invisible something in the material world which we call electricity; like the wind, we see its visible effects but the secret of its tremendous influence cannot be fathomed. (1914)



Mother Lurana White, SA

I often think if the Society of the Atonement had never done another thing, this [Church Unity Octave] alone is a great work of God, so far reaching in its effects as to baffle our weighing its influence either now or in the days to come. (1916)

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A PRAYER MOVEMENT BEGINS AT GRAYMOOR

by FR. JAMES GARDINER, SA

Although there is no formal record of that week in January 1908, ten inches of snow blanketed the Hudson River Valley and temperatures hovered in the low 30s. There couldn't have been more than a handful of people - probably just the Friars and Sisters - who gathered each night in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Angels at Graymoor.

But neither inclement weather nor small numbers deterred Fr. Paul Wattson nor dampened his enthusiasm. "There was an observance this year for the first time of a *Church Unity*

Octave," Fr. Paul reported in *The Lamp*, his monthly magazine, adding that "without any public announcement several thousand people were gotten to join almost spontaneously in the observance..."

For the next twelve months, he vigorously promoted his Octave, especially through *The Lamp*. He urged every reader "to take a zealous part this year in the observance of the octave, not being content with an individual participation merely but acting as a promoter and extender of the observance by getting as many others as possible to also keep the octave."



The Quadrangle at Graymoor as it looked in Fr. Paul's time.

The Octave capitalized on growing interest in Christian unity. It joined - and was itself joined - by other similar prayer efforts until in 1968 it was endorsed by both the Vatican and the World Council of Churches as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

For more about its history, visit www.weekofprayer2008.org.

100 YEARS LATER, STILL PRAYING FOR UNITY

Ministers General Reflect on the Centenary

by SR. NANCY CONBOY, SA

by FR. JAMES F. PUGLISI, SA

Our founders, Fr. Paul Wattson and Mother Lurana Mary White, gathered with their small communities in Our Lady of the Angels Chapel at Graymoor to celebrate the very first Church Unity Octave (known today as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity) in January 1908.

"So the Chair of Unity Octave began," Mother Lurana wrote, "as all God's wonderful works begin, in a small way." At the same time Fr. Paul commented in *The Lamp*: "Under the Divine blessing, let us hope that this Church Unity observance so auspiciously begun, may be kept with increasing enthusiasm by increasing numbers year after year until Our Lord's prayer 'that all may be One' is completely fulfilled."

The famous French Dominican theologian Yves Congar once said: "We can pass through the doors of ecumenism only on our knees." Fr. Paul Wattson and Mother Lurana White knowing this citation did just that over 100 years ago! In 1903 he asked in *The Lamp*: "Is Church Unity a visionary dream?" He answered his own question by referring to the very prayer of Jesus the night before he died: "Our answer is, God's Will is Omnipotent; the Fiat of the Most High must prevail; the Prayer of Jesus Christ has got to be answered."

When Fr. Paul and Mother Lurana celebrated the first octave of prayer for Church Unity (January 18-25, 1908), they had no idea where it

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VATICAN BLESSES WORK FOR UNITY

Pope Pius X gave the Octave his sanction and blessing in 1909. Golden Jubilee (50 years) and Centenary also recognized.



Encouraging you and your community to ever more strenuous efforts in the propagation of the Chair of Unity Octave, we urgently invite the faithful of every race and clime to join in this period of prayer; and in pledge of copious heavenly graces and favors upon all participating therein, as well as upon those for whom they pray, we cordially impart to you, beloved son, to the members of your Congregation, the associates of your League of Prayer, and to all those taking part in the Chair of Unity Octave, Our paternal and affectionate Apostolic Benediction.

Pope John XXIII
October 28, 1959



Photo by Army Signal Corps

His Holiness asks you kindly to convey to all the Franciscan Sisters and Friars of the Atonement the assurance of his spiritual closeness as you celebrate the centenary of the institution of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is his hope that the vision of Father Paul Wattson and Mother Lurana White will continue to inspire your efforts to promote reconciliation, dialogue and understanding in the service of the Church's unity.

With these sentiments His Holiness cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of joy and peace in the Lord.

H. EM. Cardinal TARCISIO BERTONE, S.D.B.
Secretariat of State - Vatican City
on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI
April 2007

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SR. NANCY'S REFLECTION



In this prayer they recognized their special call to pray and work for Christian unity!

While in Yokohama, Japan recently, I had an opportunity to join with Catholics, other Christians and Buddhists to thank God for the many blessings which are part of our lives. I wonder if Fr. Paul and Mother Lurana ever imagined that someday their followers would come together and pray not only with other Christians, but also with members of other religious traditions.

We are proud to continue the vision of Mother Lurana, a true woman of unity.

FR. JAMES' REFLECTION

would lead them nor how much it would cost them personally – they only knew that they had to be obedient to the will of Jesus who prayed that “they all may be one...so that the world may believe”. They knew in the depths of their hearts that the way to this unity willed by Christ was indeed on their knees.

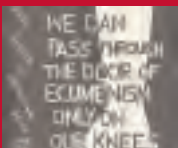


"One might say this prayer led to the Second Vatican Council..."

For 100 years, without ceasing, the Friars and Sisters have promoted this prayer for the fulfilling of the will of Christ. This prayer, which does indeed transform, has taken root in the whole Christian world. One might even say that this prayer eventually led to the Second Vatican Council as Blessed John XXIII noted in the calling of the Council on January 25, 1959 - the last day of the octave for prayer.

We invite you to join in this prayer with us, and with all those who are baptized and confess their faith in Jesus Christ so that the will of Christ for his followers might be fulfilled. “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

1968



In 1968, the World Council of Churches' Faith and Order

Commission and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity officially began preparing materials in concert for use during the observance.

1970



In 1970, Paul Wattson Christian Unity Award given to Most Rev. Michael A. Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury.

1974



In 1974, Paul Wattson Christian Unity Award given to the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission, and the Friars and Sisters of the Atonement celebrated 75 years since their founding.

1984



In 1984, Paul Wattson Christian Unity Award given to Pere Yves Congar, O.P.

SING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY OF FAITH

New Hymns Celebrate Unity; Two Californians Win Contest

In celebration of 100 years of prayer, the Friars and National Association of Pastoral Musicians sponsored a hymn competition based on Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper, "That all may be one" (Jn 17:21). Winners were "That All May Be One in Christ" by Paulist Father Ricky Manalo and "Family of Faith" (below) by Steve Ottomanyi. Both hymns can be downloaded at www.npm.org or www.weekofprayer2008.org.

FAMILY OF FAITH

1. Lord Je - sus Christ, who rose from death, Our
 2. O Key of Dav - id, op - en wide The
 3. And still, O Lord, you walk our way, You
 4. So lead us, Lord, to live and claim All

1. spir - it's life, our spir - it's breath, You
 2. doors now blocked by hu - man pride, Come,
 3. walk with us both night and day, You
 4. that it means to bear your name, Now

1. show the way that leads to peace, Where
 2. change our hearts, make clear our need To
 3. call us, Lord, in love to be A
 4. make of us one fa - mi - ly Of

1. an - ger sleeps, where ha - tred ceases
 2. fol - low where your will shall lead,
 3. sign of hope, of u - ni - ty.
 4. faith, of hope, of cha - ri - ty.

Text: Steven Ottomanyi, © 1971. © National Association of Pastoral Musicians and Friars (with permission). All rights reserved.
 Tune: CLD 4074, LA, from Common Prayers, 487 to 490 (Lugano), ca. 1615-1618.

That All May Be One in Christ has verses in 3 languages. Below is the refrain. Go to the website for the entire hymn.



Choir sings during Eucharist celebration at the NPM Convention where hymns were premiered.

REFRAIN

English

O God, make us one as we come to the table, One in Spirit and in truth. Now you have given us bread for the world, That all may be one in Christ and all may be one in You.

Spanish

Que todo sea úno al reunirnos al banquete, úno en espíritu y verdad. Hoy nos has dado el pan para el mundo, que todo sea úno en Cristo, que todo sea úno en Ti.

Vietnamese

Cùng ăn một tâm Bánh cho muôn người, chúng con chung niềm tin, khấn nguyện Chúa cho bình an. Chúa ban Bánh Trường Sinh vinh phúc cho chúng con hiệp nhất trong Giêsu tình yêu chúng con luôn nên một cùng Người.

1990



In celebration of the 25th anniversary of Vatican II's Decree on Ecumenism, an ecumenical celebration led by the Cardinal Archbishop, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council was held on January 22nd at Westminster Cathedral.

1995



In 1995, the Paul Wattson Lecture Series expanded to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The first speaker was Dr. Susannah Heschel on the politics of Jewish-Christian relations.

1998



In 1998, Friars & Sisters of the Atonement celebrated their centennial, and the first Fr. Paul Wattson/Mother Lurana White Conference was held at the Centro Pro Unione in Rome with guest lecturer Enzo Bianchi speaking on ecumenism as the prophecy of religious life.

2002



Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity visited Graymoor and celebrated a special Mass on June 23, 2002.

Memorable Moments in **100** Years of Prayer

1908



1908

Church Unity Octave celebrated (for the first time) in Our Lady of the Angels Chapel at Graymoor

1910

World Conference on Mission in Edinburgh, Scotland

This was the start of the ecumenical movement as we know it today.

Fr. James Loughran, SA
Director, Graymoor
Ecumenical & Interreligious
Institute (GEII)

1927

World Conference on Faith and Order, Lausanne, Switzerland

Bishop Charles H. Brent of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the USA beseeched 400 representatives from 127 Orthodox, Anglican, Reformation and Free churches to "keep the purpose of unity firmly in our hearts and look on all Christians of whatever name as brothers beloved. It is thus that, by practising unity, we shall gain unity."

1948

1948

Formation of the World Council of Churches

The primary purpose of the fellowship of churches in the World Council of Churches is to call one another to visible unity in one faith and in one eucharistic fellowship...

Constitution and Rules of the World Council of Churches

1963

Pope John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council



It led to the Roman Catholic Church's involvement in the ecumenical movement, which had an enormous effect on the movement and on the Roman Catholic Church.

Fr. Charles Angell, SA
Ecumenist

1964

Second Vatican Council issues Decree on Ecumenism



The Decree on Ecumenism changed everything. It recognized prayer as the "soul of the ecumenical movement." Instead of Roman Catholics 'praying for', we began to 'pray with' others. This was monumental.

Fr. Emmanuel Sullivan, SA
Ecumenist

1966

Pope Paul VI gave Archbishop of Canterbury Michael Ramsey the Episcopal ring he wore as Archbishop of Milan.

The Archbishop was the first official representative of the Anglican Communion to be greeted by a pope since the reformation. It was a very significant gesture and he also recognized the Anglicans in a way they had never been recognized before by calling them a sister church.

Fr. Damian MacPherson, SA
Ecumenical Officer for
Archdiocese of Toronto

1968

1967

Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I rescind the 1054 excommunications of the Great Schism

This is the beginning of the dialogue of charity between East and West. I was present 10 years later in the Sistine chapel on the anniversary of the event when Paul VI stood up and knelt down to kiss the feet of the Patriarch's representative. It caused a great stir among the Roman curia present. Pope Paul VI was a man for symbolic gestures that helped unblock the ecumenical discussion so that it might go forward.

Fr. James F. Puglisi, SA
Minister General &
Director, Centro Pro Unione

1968

The Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity begin jointly preparing resources for the Week of Prayer.

1982

Lima Document on Baptism, Eucharist & Ministry Finalized

This is the most read, most translated, most written about ecumenical document. BEM gets to the heart of the theological matters necessary for unity. Agreement on baptismal unity has brought the churches closer together. However, different understandings of ordained ministry are what still keep the churches apart.

Sr. Lorelei Fuchs, SA
Theological Consultant

The Twentieth Century will be remembered as the century in which Christians realized that divisions--some of them 1,500 years old--between them had to be overcome. A divided Christianity in which churches and denominations were not only divided but often enough hostile to each other simply could not reflect the will of Christ. Providentially in different ways and at different times Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics and Protestants each came to this conclusion.

Fr. Elias Mallon, SA, Franciscans International

1986

1986 Religious Leaders Pray for Peace in Assisi

Peace was at the heart of this meeting. What is now referred to as the Spirit of Assisi points to the fact that unity and peace are two sides of the same coin. This is memorable because so many different religious traditions could come together and pray to their god for the same reality of peace.

Fr. James F. Puglisi, SA
Minister General &
Director, Centro Pro Unione

1999 Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification signed between the Vatican and the Lutheran Federation

It brought Roman Catholics and Lutherans closer together than we ever thought possible. It has helped to resolve the reason Martin Luther called for the reformation.

Fr. James Loughran, SA
Director, GEII

2000 Pope John Paul II, Metropolitan Athanasius, and the Archbishop of Canterbury pray together before the holy door of the Basilica of Saint Paul on the opening day of the Week of Prayer. (January 18)

I had the privilege of contributing to the liturgical ceremony that took place at the Basilica. As member of the Vatican's ecumenical commission for the Jubilee it was a great joy to see the idea suggested of opening the door together realized since it marked the beginning of opening other doors together during the jubilee year.

Fr. James F. Puglisi, SA
Minister General &
Director, Centro Pro Unione



© Photo by Fides News Agency

2000

2006 Pope Benedict XVI and Patriarch Bartholomew I embrace in Istanbul, Turkey.

Once again, we gratefully greet this presence as a blessing from God, as an expression of brotherly love and honor toward our Church, and as evidence of our common desire to continue...the unwavering journey toward the restoration of full communion among our Churches, which constitutes His divine will and command. May it be so.

Patriarch Bartholomew I



Photo N. Marginas

2008

2008 12th Presentation of the Paul Wattson Christian Unity Award



During a ceremony at the Centro Pro Unione in Rome, the Friars honor the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity for their 40 years of joint promotion of the Week of Prayer. Accepting the award during the Centro Pro Unione's annual Week of Prayer celebration were Walter Cardinal Kasper, President, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity; Dr. Thomas Best, Retiring Director of the Faith and Order Commission and Rev. Dr. John Gibault, recently named Director of the Commission.



This is only a small portion of the grand mosaic of the ecumenical picture. There are many more events that comprise the whole, and there is room for all as together we seek the unity Jesus Christ wills.

Sr. Paul Teresa Hennessee, SA, Ecumenist

A Bishop Makes an Ecumenical Salad

by FR. JOHN J. KEANE, SA

In 1990, the Patriarch of Constantinople came to San Francisco. Since I was serving as the Ecumenical Director for the Catholic archdiocese at the time, His Grace Bishop Anthony (later Metropolitan Anthony), spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of San Francisco, invited me to his home for lunch to begin preparations for the Patriarch's visit. Bishop Anthony seated me to his right while he thoroughly mixed the salad and evenly portioned it out to all his advisors at table. Having completed this sign of hospitality and welcome, Bishop Anthony remained standing and declared, "For the next six months, Fr. John is my Ecumenical Director. I want you to listen to him. Remember, we are all mixed together in this ecumenical salad - so, let us enjoy it!"

WHAT IS ECUMENISM?

Unity in Diversity, Diversity in Unity

Ecumenism refers to "the restoration of unity among all Christians." It comes from the Greek word *oikoumene* meaning the whole inhabited earth and is inspired by Jesus' prayer to his father, "that they may all be one." (John 17:21) Unity is seen as a gift from God that we already have, but that we must realize and accept. Christians have been encouraging common prayer, often referred to as spiritual ecumenism, since the 17th Century as a means to achieve unity. The Second Vatican Council's Decree on

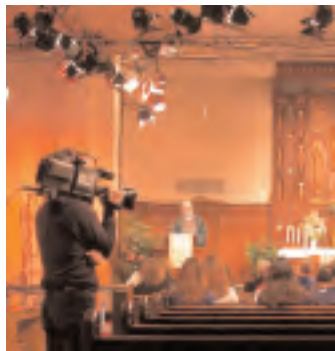
Ecumenism called "prayer the soul of the ecumenical movement" and called the "reconciliation of all Christians in the unity of the one and only Church of Christ" a "holy objective."

Restoring unity among all Christians.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church encourages ecumenism and urges dialogue among theologians and meetings among Christians of the different churches and communities

and collaboration among Christians in various areas of service to mankind as expressions of Christian unity. (820-822)

In *Working for Unity*, Fr. Emmanuel Sullivan, SA and his co-author Dennis Rudd write, "It cannot be said too often that the quest for unity does not imply a need, nor even a desire, for uniformity. Diversity is a mark of the Holy Spirit...and God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the very model of unity in diversity, diversity in unity."



CELEBRATING THE WEEK OF PRAYER CENTENARY ON TV

In U.S.

On Sunday, January 20th, **Fr. James Gardiner, SA**, director of the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, will celebrate *The Sunday Mass* on television in honor of the Week of Prayer. The Graymoor Chorale will sing, and friars and sisters from Graymoor will be in the congregation.

In Canada

On January 21, **Fr. Damian MacPherson, SA**, Director for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto will celebrate the *Daily Mass*.

Join us as we celebrate 100 years of prayer for Christian unity. Tell your family and friends to tune in. Check local listings for times and channels in your area.

Types of Ecumenism

- Theological** concerns matters of doctrine and theology
- Local** promotes the collaboration and cooperation between Christian communities living in the same place
- Social** refers to when the entire community is invited to participate in an activity to help others
- Spiritual** encourages praying together as in the Week of Prayer

1983



What Can I Do for the Week of Prayer?

1. Pray each day with the Friars and Sisters.
2. Bring the new hymns (p.3) to your parish music director.
3. Encourage friends and family to watch the TV Mass.
4. Attend an ecumenical prayer service and invite others to join you.
5. Subscribe to *Ecumenical Trends* for your pastor or yourself. In honor of the centenary, each issue from September 2007 until January 2009 will feature various Christian perspectives on Christian unity. A subscription (11 issues) is \$20 per year in the U.S. (\$22 in Canada & Mexico). For subscriptions, call 845-424-2109 or visit www.geii.org.

PROPHETS OF UNITY : WATTSON & KING



Fr. Paul preaching at Graymoor in 1938.

Through the efforts of the churches, particularly the African-American churches and their ecumenical partners, and most especially through the non-violent resistance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, rights for all were enshrined in American law. His deep-rooted conviction that only Christ-like love truly conquers

hate and brings about the transformation of society continues to inspire Christians, drawing them together to work for justice. 2008 is the first year that the efforts of Dr. King are included in the international resources for the Week of Prayer.

By FR. MARTIN J. CARTER, SA, DMIN

In January there are two celebrations that are connected – the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity founded by Fr. Paul Wattson of Graymoor and the holiday commemorating the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Both men knew division and committed themselves to unity: Fr. Paul Wattson was pained by divisions in Christianity, and Rev. Dr. King was aggrieved by racial divisions in particular and all human divisions in general. These men lived the Christian baptismal call to be priest, prophet, and king in the name of Christ, the ultimate Priest, Prophet, and King. They were "chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God."

King, who won the Nobel Prize, preached community among all. He

reminded all that we share the same humanity and the same race.

Wattson preached unity from the pulpit. He founded the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement and dedicated his life and the lives of those who followed him to Christian unity.

Those who take up the banner left by Wattson and King mediate so that the voiceless will be heard; they intercede that the powerless will share power; they intervene when they see injustice. Above all, they reconcile enemies, opposing sides, and rivals. They dialogue with those who oppose them. They are committed to justice and charity. They are called to unity. They take seriously their baptismal anointing.

Pray with Us

Join us in reflecting on the theme for each day of the Week of Prayer.

Day 1 Pray always

Pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:17)

Day 2 Pray always, trusting God alone

Give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thess 5:18)

Day 3 Pray without ceasing for the conversion of hearts

Admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted (1Thess 5:14)

Day 4 Pray always for justice

See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all (1 Thess. 5:15)

Day 5 Pray constantly with a patient heart

Be patient with all of them (1 Thess 5:14)

Day 6 Pray always for grace to work with God

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:16)

Day 7 Pray for what we need

...help the weak (1 Thess 5:14)

Day 8 Pray always that they all may be one

Be at peace (1 Thess 5:13b)

UNITY THROUGH PRAYER

10 Reasons to Pray Together

You can find 10 reasons why we should pray for unity on www.weekofprayer2008.org, a website devoted to the 2008 celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, but the most basic and compelling one is because Jesus continues to pray for it Himself — "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me." (John 17:21)

When we pray together we are drawn together in fellowship. At the very core of all Christian traditions is the recognition of Christ as our savior. And the way all Christians express their faith is through prayer. Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, Orthodox - we all believe in the power of prayer. Praying for unity will bring unity.

"When Christians pray together for unity, we see Christ in one another. It challenges us to ask, 'Why are we still separated?'" said Fr. James Loughran, Director, GEII.

The Friars of the Atonement promote prayer for Christian unity because as their founder Fr. Paul Wattson once said, "Prayer is the way by which God accomplishes things; first He makes His servants ask and then by His power He accomplishes their request." So that the Father may fulfill Christ's prayer that we may all be one, we must join with Him in this prayer. Since the Friars began the annual Church Unity Octave (now known as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity) in 1908, much has changed and Christians are closer to unity than ever before. But there is still much separation and much more to do.

Join the Friars and Sisters as they celebrate 100 years of praying for Christian unity. For more info, go to www.weekofprayer2008.org.

ILLUSTRATING THE WEEK OF PRAYER

GEII Materials Feature Winning Image

Each year, Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute (GEII) creates materials in Spanish and English adapted from the Vatican and World Council of Churches' resource materials to help parishes across the United States celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In honor of the centenary, GEII partnered with other Christian organizations to sponsor an artwork competition.

In 2007, artists were invited to illustrate the scriptural theme of the 2008 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Dr. Ena Heller, founder and executive director of the Museum of Biblical Art, and Thomas W. Lollar, director of visual arts at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, selected John R. Mittelstadt's "Onward in Prayer" as the winning image, which is featured on the Week of Prayer resource materials for the 2008.

Mittelstadt, who attended The Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA and has a Bachelor's of Fine Arts from Wayne State University, is a self-described Christian-themed artist from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and member of CIVA. Competition sponsors were GEII, New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Christians in the Visual Arts, Episcopal Church and the Visual Arts, and the Museum of Biblical Art.

Resources & order forms are available at www.geii.org.



Competition winner John R. Mittelstadt's image is featured on posters and prayer cards developed by Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute for use during the Week of Prayer. A collection of posters from past years can be viewed on www.weekofprayer2008.org.



Poster designed and used in Italy by the friars' ecumenical research center, Centro Pro Unione.

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