

RESOURCES

Suggested Parish Ecumenical Actions:

Membership in local ministerial associations

Prayer & Bible Study:

- Bible Study
- Prayer Service for Christian Unity Week
- Good Friday Seven Last Words Service

Holiday Prayer Services:

- * *Thanksgiving*
- *Memorial Day*
- *Independence Day*
- *Labor Day*

Social Action:

- *Habitat for Humanity*
- *Valley Interfaith Projects*
- *Local Food Banks*
- *Death Penalty Moratorium project*
- *Border Links*

DIOCESAN COMMISSION ON ECUMENISM AND INTER-RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS:

Called to provide vision, direction and leadership in creating an environment for ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue. Contact: Rev. Michael Diskin, Diocesan Ecumenical Officer @ 602-354-2471

USCCB OFFICE OF PUBLISHING SERVICES:

3211 Fourth St. NE,
Washington, DC
220017
1-800-235-8722

ARIZONA ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

A gathering of Christian groups drawn together as the church. Goals are to:

Provide opportunities for believers to worship and study together, pursue peace & justice through community service and action, enrich and affirm ecumenical life in communities throughout AZ, and promote inter-religious dialogue and action. 602-468-3118

PARISH ECUMENICAL REPRESENTATIVE

A designated parishioner who represents the pastor and the parish pastoral council in communicating and coordinating ecumenical and inter-religious activity.

IN SEARCH OF UNITY: GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES FOR ECUMENICAL AND INTER-RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX, OCTOBER, 2005

Located at:

www.diocesephoenix.org/chancery/ecumenism

This resource contains ecumenical principles and directives regarding prayer services, worship and the Sacraments. There is also information on the Ecumenical Movement, Ecumenism at the Diocesan and parish levels, practical suggestions for Ecumenism and Ecumenical Formation.

Provided by
Diocesan Commission on Ecumenism
And Inter-religious Affairs
January 2008

Roman Catholic Church of Phoenix



*Our
Ecumenical
Mission*

The Church of Phoenix is called to participate in the quest for unity by promoting ecumenical and inter-religious relations as mandated by Vatican II and recent Church teachings. This applies to all members of the Church. Since Vatican II the Church has urged the faithful to seek unity with her separated Christian brothers and sisters and to acknowledge and respect the truth found in all religions. It is, therefore, essential that each parish, as a part of its mission, seek ways to further unity with all Christians and non-Christians of good will.

Scriptural Foundation

John 11:51-52

“He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God.”

John 11:51-52

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you Father, 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.”

Ephesians 2: 14-16

“For he is our peace, in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.”

Ephesians 4: 4-6

“There is but one body and one Spirit, just as there is but one hope given all of you by your call. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and works through all, as is in all.”

Vatican II Documents

The documents of the Second Vatican Council further support ecumenism and inter-religious activity:

The Church promotes unity among all the followers of Christ which flows from our common baptism and seeks the fullness of unity which is a condition for evangelization:

“The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council-division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature.” (Decree on Ecumenism #1)

The Church encourages the deepening of relations with both Jews and Muslims who share with Christians a belief in the God of Abraham.

“Thus the Church of Christ acknowledges that, according to God’s saving design, the beginnings of the faith and the election are found already among the Patriarchs, Moses and the prophets.” (Declaration on Relations of the Church to non-Christian Religions #3)

The Church supports dialogue with other world religions.

“Catholic Christians are to reject nothing of what is true in other religions and to regard with sincere reverence those ways of conduct and life, those precepts and teachings which, though differing in many aspects from the ones the Church holds, nonetheless often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all.” (Declaration on Relations of the Church to Non-Christian Religions #2)

RECENT

The following documents further support ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue and action:

- ***Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism, 1995***
This directory should be in every parish resource center. All of the ecumenical principles of the Catholic Church under one cover: chapters on theology, organization for unity, ecumenical formation, collaboration and dialogue. The summary *Introduction to Ecumenism* is important background reading for those just beginning to learn about Catholic ecumenism.
- ***Ut Unum Sint, 1995***
Pope John Paul II outlines in this encyclical where the Catholic Church has come since the Council, and where it must go in search for unity. Suitable for retreat and for personal prayer and reflection.
- ***National Directory for Catechesis, 2005***
This directory provides specific sections on the ecumenical dimension of catechesis. However, the emphasis is on catechesis in the context of evangelization, enculturation, and liturgical life. It reinforces the importance of the ecumenical dimension of these elements.
- ***Ecumenical Formation for Pastoral Workers, 1998***
This brief document is important reading for preparing the training of parish ministers. It suggests a workshop or course early in their formation in order to bring an ecumenical perspective to their ministry.