

January 14, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monday, Jan. 15, our country honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We can't forget Dr. King's labor and hard work, the laying down of his life, to eradicate prejudice and racism in our country. Indeed, we take time out from our normal routine to celebrate our country's growth in racial equality due to the conscious awareness of Martin Luther King Jr. We remember his dream. What can we do to keep his dream alive? Although we have made a lot of growth in this area, prejudice still exists because of the color of one's skin, looks, ability, gender etc. Sometimes it is not as obvious to us as it once was but it still exists. The child who is ignored or not accepted in a group just because he/she doesn't seem to fit in nor meets the standards of being "cool" or is just simply labeled as a target for rejection is but one example. Are there equal opportunities for all ethnic groups and for all the genders in our country? These are questions that we continually need to raise. The work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. didn't just happen once and for all. It is ongoing work to keep raising the awareness of everyone about this issue of justice. This was also the work of Jesus in building the kingdom of God, in breaking down barriers that keep people apart, in treating everyone as brothers and sisters. We pray for the Spirit that frees us to love everyone without conditions.

Christian Unity: January 18 to 24 is the Week of Prayer for Church Unity. O God, holy and eternal Trinity, we pray for your church in the world. Sanctify its life; renew its worship; empower its witness; heal its divisions; make visible its unity. Lead us, with all of our brothers and sisters, towards communion in faith, life and witness. So that united in one body, by one Spirit, we may together witness to the perfect unity of your love. Amen.

Roe v. Wade: January 22 is the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade, United States Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion in this country. We keep praying that this decision will be overturned and once again our country will protect the lives of unborn human beings. We pray, too, for the millions of unborn children who have lost their lives and the women who experience the loss of their child through abortion, who lose a part of themselves, along with others involved in making that decision. We also want to continue to pray for health care reform that promotes and fosters the growth of life on all levels. Let us continue to pray for our country and our leaders in their effort to promote reform where it is most needed for the good of all.