

## *The Unity of The Spirit*

**“...live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4: 1-6**

God became man so that He could unite His children in one body, one Church, one in the Father's love; “...so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us...” John 17:21 In His ministry, Jesus reaches out to the lost sheep, the sinners, in order to bring them back to the fold, the Father's fold. Jesus establishes the Church not to be an institution, but to be a family; which is led by the Spirit, so that we might be one in the Father and the Love of the Father and Son may be one in us.

**“Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.” 1 John 4:12**

We do not exist and cannot exist outside of each other. Our egos and selfishness might like to make us think so, but the reality is that we are not independent of one another; we are a part of each other; we are begotten of the same love that is the Father. If we exist in love, then love (the Father) will exist in us, dwell richly within our lives, and bring to full perfection His love in us.

**“The Spirit builds the unity of the Church in the diversity of nations, cultures, and people.” Pope Francis**

When Jesus ascended into heaven He did not leave us, for He promised to send the Spirit. It is in this Spirit that unity among all people is possible. It is the Spirit that enables us to experience the deep and rich beauty that exists within each person. The very life force of the Church is the Spirit, and the Church can only thrive when the entire Church (the Body of Christ) allows the Spirit to move within us, to work through us and lead us into the greater reality of unity.

**“Indeed, all authentic unity draws from the rich diversities which make it up: in a sense it is a family, which is all the more united when each of its members is free to be fully himself or herself.” Pope Francis**

Love is the foundation of hope; it is where hate is defeated and beauty begins; where death is no longer; where peace invades our hearts; where the Spirit moves and creates wonder beyond our ability to imagine.

***Jesus, teach us to live in the Spirit, so that we may be one in You as You are one in the Father. May our lives be led by the embrace of the Spirit, guiding us in all of our encounters with one another. AMEN***