

**January Five Ways E-Letter
January 10, 2023**

First, as we prepare to observe the 115th annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, from Jan. 18-25, please make sure that your parish has the materials prepared by a joint committee from the Vatican and the World Council of Churches. These may be obtained on the website of the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute: www.geii.org. Also included are homily notes for the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 16.

Secondly, I recommend a marvelous book on St. Teresa of Calcutta, by her lawyer Jim Towey, *To Love and Be Loved, A Personal Portrait of Mother Teresa*. Several things struck me forcibly: she absorbed evangelism, ecumenism and respect for other religions, especially Hinduism. She and her Missionaries of Charity walk the very thin line between witnessing to Jesus and honoring the good in other religions. She also rejected abortion but worked with abortion promoter Hilary Clinton to found a center in Washington, DC, for abandoned babies.

Finally, when we observed the feast of St. Peter Canisius, on Dec. 21, his statement in Wikipedia offers us great advice on dealing with opponents. "If you treat them right, the Germans will give you everything. Many err in matters of faith, but without arrogance. They err in the German way, mostly honest, a bit simple-minded, but very open for everything Lutheran. An honest explanation of the faith would be much more effective than a polemical attack against reformers.

The Wiki author notes "He rejected attacks against John Calvin and Melanchthon: 'With words like these, we don't cure patients, we make them incurable'."

The Vatican II *Decree on Ecumenism* insists that we search together with Eastern Orthodox and Protestants for the talents which each Christian Church embodies. We offer what we have that is missing in them, and we accept from them what they have that we need. All this for the sake of better evangelizing non-Christians and strengthening Christians.

Many thanks to those who commented on the Dec. 11 Five Ways e-letter.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Harry Winter, O.M.I.