

February Five Ways E-Letter
February 14, 2023

First, Pope Francis visit to South Sudan, Africa, Feb. 4-5, was extraordinary. At the request of the South Sudanese government, he was accompanied by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby (Anglican, Episcopalian in USA) and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt. Rev. Iain Greenshields (Presbyterian/Reformed).

The secular media noted that this is the first time ever that the three leaders of different Christian Churches went together. And they noted that it was not the idea of those Churches, but of the government of the nation visited. A government official realized that 60% of the population of South Sudan belongs to these three Churches.

How can each of us promote such efforts at Mission and Unity in the future?

Secondly, our Five Ways member Dr. Bob Brenneman, from Minnesota, a great university teacher and promoter of Christian-Muslim relations, has a daughter in law from Antioch, Syria, whose family there lost their homes in the recent earthquake affecting Turkey and Syria. Bob informed me that those families are simply grateful they are alive. This weekend, many Christian Churches in the USA are taking up special collections to help the people of Turkey and Syria rebuild their homes, and bury their dead. Let us be generous. (Bob's photo and his presentation as an early speaker with the Five Ways Fellowship is available on www.omiusa.org, April 20, 2015).

Finally, the US Catholic Mission Association's offer to present an interactive webinar for each Sunday's Scripture readings begins this Thursday: see below. I hope this social media innovation will help us see that our Sunday worship involves Mission, Unity and Dialogue. Oblates have been very supportive of USCMA from the beginning, especially with Anatole (Benny) Baillargeon helping to create it, Greg Gallagher serving as a president, 2013-16, and current general councilor for Canada-US Jim Brobst, during his time as USA vicar-provincial for mission (see www.omiusa.org).

Many thanks to those who commented on the January 10 e-letter.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Harry Winter, O.M.I.