

January 20, 2012

Media Alert

Local Prayer Service for Christian Unity Part of Global Effort to Unite Christians

WHO: Leaders of various Christian dominations and communities from central Florida, including:

- Bishop John Noonan – Roman Catholic Diocese of Orlando
- Father Scott Circe – Director of Ecumenism, Diocese of Orlando
- Reverend Doctor Jeff Moore – Trinity Lutheran Church
- Reverend Shenouda Kalleeny – St. Mary and Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox
- Bishop Timothy Whitaker – Florida Area Resident Bishop, United Methodist Church
- Bishop Louis Campese, Bishop Ordinary – Anglican Cathedral of the Incarnation
- Reverend Daniel Ivey – College Park United Methodist Church
- Reverend Jeff Linman – Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
- Pastor James Coffin – Executive Director of the Interfaith Council of Central Florida
- Reverend Doctor Paige McRight – Executive Presbyter, Central Florida Presbytery
- Reverend Daniel Hickman – Orthodox Church of St. Stephen the Protomartyr
- The Reverend Edward Benoway – Bishop, Florida-Bahamas Synod; Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- Reverend Bryan Fulwider – First Congregational Church of Winter Park

WHAT: Leaders and members of many Christian denominations gather together for a Christian prayer service, during a week of prayer for Christian unity. This year's theme: "We will all be changed by the Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (cf. 1 Cor 15:51-58). A reception will follow the prayer service.

WHERE: Trinity Lutheran Church, 123 E. Livingston Street, Orlando, FL 32801

WHEN: Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

WHY: The worldwide Week of Prayer – established in 1908 by Paul Wattson, founder of an Anglican religious community who later entered the Catholic Church – began Wednesday, Jan. 18 and is organized annually by the Vatican and the World Council of Churches (WCC), the broadest and most

inclusive among the many organized expressions of the modern ecumenical movement, a movement whose goal is Christian unity.

The WCC brings together 349 churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 560 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches. While the bulk of the WCC's founding churches were European and North American, today most member churches are in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific. and was the theme celebrated in the Paul VI Hall.

STATEMENT FROM POPE BENEDICT XVI during his general audience on Jan. 18: The Week of Prayer “is one of the most effective annual expressions ... of the impetus which Vatican Council II gave to the search for full union among all Christ’s disciples. This spiritual event, which unites Christians from all traditions, increases our awareness of the fact that the unity we strive for cannot result merely from our own efforts; rather, it is a gift we receive and must constantly invoke from on high.”