



A CALL TO PRAYER

2015-2016

"To Live The Faith We Hold In Common"

Louisiana Interchurch Conference

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A Call to Prayer

2015 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity theme: *Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."* (John 4:7)

2016 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity theme: *Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord* (cf. 1st Peter 2:9)

Please use this intercessory prayer calendar as an element of your prayer life. As you offer prayer day by day, perhaps, the prayers below may also be included as a portion of your daily offering. Let us pray. . .

PRAYER FOR THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one; Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FIFTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER (1993)

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 our brothers and sisters, towards communion in faith, life and witness so that, united in one body by the one Spirit, we may together witness to the perfect unity of your love.

Amen.

**AN INTERCESSORY PRAYER CALENDAR FOR
THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IN LOUISIANA**

DAY

- 1 AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
Eighth Episcopal District
The Rev. Julius H. McAllister, Bishop

We ask your prayers for world peace, the elimination of racism, sexism and the basic inhumanity of humankind to each other. We pray that God's will must prevail as we move forward into this new century. We ask your prayers as our churches continue rebuilding efforts along the Gulf Coast.

- 2 EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA**
The Rev. Morris Thompson, Bishop

We ask your prayers for our congregations and their clergy as they, like so many others, strive to overcome the ravages of Katrina. We pray as well, that God will continue to transform our lives through the challenges we have faced and bring forth in us a new vision for Louisiana and God's people.

- 3 CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**
Great River Region
The Rev. Nadine Burton, Interim Regional Minister

Pray for our Region as we go through a time of transition in our staffing and seek new ways to minister to the congregations and Pastors in Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas. May God continue to bless all who are a part of LIC that we may be a witness for Christ in Louisiana.

4 ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA
The Most Rev. Ronald P. Herzog, Bishop

We ask your prayers for peace in the world, that God's word may be heard more fully and lived abundantly.

5 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Bishop Mike Rinehart

Please lift up all people who live in poverty and ask that our Lord's mercy and justice be provided through us as his servant people. Remember the strangers living in the shadows that the Scriptures call us to defend. Pray for the witness of all churches of every denomination, that the hope of Christ might be proclaimed.

6 ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE
The Most Rev. Michael Jarrell

We ask your prayers for: (1) an ecumenical spirit among all Christians; and (2) for the success of the Centennial Capital Campaign. The centennial will be celebrated on January 11, 2018.

7 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
Bishop Kevin Kanouse

Prayers of gratitude are asked for the 106 congregations of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Mission Area of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as we move into our new offices in the DiscipleLife Center for Mission at Briarwood. Our missional theme is: DiscipleLife: Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus. We are undertaking a concerted effort to grow disciples of Jesus through bible study, prayer and action. Join us in praying that God's Spirit

will guide is in the formation of disciples faithful to the mission of God. May God's Spirit direct us all into DiscipleLife.

8 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
Presbytery of the Pines
The Rev. Joe Hill

The Presbytery of the Pines celebrates the ministries of small congregations. We ask your prayers as we continue to respond to God's calling for us. Pray for the ministers and our churches as the Presbytery constantly strives to be more supportive.

9 NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION OF AMERICA
Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention of Louisiana, Inc.
The Rev. Dr. R. Timothy Jones, Sr.

For the nurturing of the educational programs of our churches especially for our children and youth; for the spreading of the Gospel through our local churches and their outreach into the communities; for a greater zeal to win the lost to Christ; for the strengthening of families; for increased safety in our neighborhoods and the elimination of crime.

10 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Louisiana Annual Conference
Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
In all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
At all the times you can, to all the people you can,
As long as you ever can."*

--John Wesley, Founder of Methodism

The stated mission of the United Methodist Church in Louisiana is "To Raise Up Spiritual Leaders, both Lay and

Clergy, in order to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.” We join with you in prayers for all baptized Christians as they go about their tasks as true disciples, utilizing the positive attributes of our theological diversity.

11 ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

The Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond

We ask your prayers for the continued rebuilding of Metropolitan New Orleans in concert with God’s loving will for us as we strive to prevent murders, violence, and racism.

12 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

South Central Conference

**The Rev. Anna Kreisle Humble,
Interim Conference Minister**

In a world that emphasizes distinction and difference, we pray that we might discover that which we have in common. May we focus more on what draws us together rather than what separates us so that we may all be one.

13 AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

**Southwestern Delta Episcopal District
Bishop Mildred B. Hines**

We ask your prayers for our nation that the faith we profess will become the faith we practice in every area of our individual and national life; an abiding awareness that “The earth is the Lord’s and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.” Discernment that we may see God in the many diverse people and places where He may be found; our world that we may value all human life realizing that what we do is not who we are.

14 ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE

The Most Rev. Robert W. Muench

We ask your prayer for peace - in our hearts, in our homes, in our communities, in our country and within and among all countries; Justice throughout the world; Those suffering from any illness of mind, body or spirit, especially those who have been abused, by clergy or others; Development of faith of believers, outreach to those not practicing, and closer collaboration among faith traditions; **A growing respect for human life in all its stages and circumstances;** An increase of vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

15 CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Fourth Episcopal District
Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr.

We ask the prayers for those who dedicate their vocations to social and economic justice. We continue to pray for those who encourage hatred through rhetoric and sinful social policies. We pray for renewal of God's church. Please pray for our ventures to assist the churches in education for economic development.

16 RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
South Central Yearly Meeting
Dr. Ralph McLaury

May peace, justice, and human kindness increase. May we thereby be led to a deeper awareness of the presence of God.

**17 ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HOUMA-
THIBODAUX**
The Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre

We ask your prayers for our five diocesan goals: Vocations, Youth, Evangelization, Education, Liturgy. We also ask your prayers for the spiritual renewal and revival of our diocese.

**18 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH LOUISIANA
The Rev. Ron Sutto**

Pray for the volunteers and staff of Project Homecoming, a partner organization, as they host work groups working with hurting communities. Pray for continued cooperation of the faith communities of Louisiana as we seek to heal from the past and prepare for the future, even while struggling to be faithful in the present.

**19 EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DIOCESE OF WESTERN
LOUISIANA
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jacob W. Owensby**

We ask your prayers as we seek to carry a message of reconciliation into the world in witness to Christ's healing love and forgiveness. May each of us be a vessel for the restoration of all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

**20 NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC.
LOUISIANA MISSIONARY BAPTIST STATE
CONVENTION
The Rev. Dr. C. S. Gordon, Jr.**

We ask your prayers for our programs of education and community ministries. Please pray for our leaders to have courage and vision.

**21 ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES
The Most Rev. Glen John Provost**

We ask your prayers for the Church of Southwest Louisiana that we may experience an increase of vocation to the Religious Life, the Permanent Diaconate, and the Priesthood

that we may minister more effectively to God's Holy People.

For all students returning to school, that God bless them with openness to His will and an understanding of knowledge they are taught.

**22 CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN LOUISIANA
Mrs. Mary Collins, President**

We ask your prayers for strength and the determination to work together for justice in our communities, our state, our nation and for peace in our hearts and in the world.

**23 ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SHREVEPORT
The Most Rev. Michael Gerard Duca**

We pray that the Church may offer new generations, through the believable proclamation of the Gospel, ever-new reasons of life and hope.

**24 CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TRINITY PRESBYTERY
Ms. Paula Hayes, Stated Clerk**

We request your prayers for the new General Assembly program, "Touch the Future: A New Frontier in Partnership," which seeks (1) to lead the Church at all levels through discernment so that we can be equipped to follow God's leading into the 21st century, and (2) to strengthen local congregations.

**25 LOUISIANA HOME AND FOREIGN MISSION
BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION, INC. (LHFMBSC),
a division of National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.
The Rev. Dr. Mallery Callahan**

Pray for support of missions, home and abroad, to further the work of helping with physical needs while reaching out with the plan of salvation for souls, and for the restoration of the former LSU Jesse Harrison 4-H Club which has been purchased by LHFMBSC and has been renamed "Fountain Pines Baptist Camp".

**26 The Military and Hospitaller
ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM
Hugh Ramsay Straub, Commander,
Grand Commandery of the South**

We ask prayers for the sick, and for the poor. We ask prayers for Christians everywhere especially those who are persecuted for their faith. We ask prayers for peace especially in the Holy Land. We ask prayers for the unity of all Christians. We ask prayers for the continuing inspiration of our Spiritual Protector, Gregory III, Patriarch of Antioch and the entire Orient, of Alexandria and Jerusalem. We ask prayers for the well being of our Grand Master, Don Carlos Gereda de Borbon, Marquis of Almazan.

**27 COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF
LOUISIANA
The Rev. Dr. Mike Massar
Lead Coordinator**

The Churches of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana seek your prayers that we may witness to God's truth in Jesus and serve God's people with loving kindness and mercy.

**28 FIRST JURISDICTION OF LOUISIANA
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Bishop Alton E. Gatlin**

We ask your prayers for the pastors and people of the First Jurisdiction of Louisiana Church of God in Christ. Please pray for the churches and the communities of the First Jurisdiction that we may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed. The recent home going of two major pastors will be felt for many years to come. Please pray that their work will continue, the healing for the families, and the continued growth of their churches. Amen.

29 LOCAL MINSTERIAL ASSOCIATIONS, LOCAL CLERGY, CONGREGATIONS and OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WORKING FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

For the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Observance. In thanksgiving for the leadership of the Society for the Atonement; for the publications focusing on the Apostolate of Christian Unity. Remember as well the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.

For greater cooperation among Christian denominations, their clergy and congregations. For the vision to lead communities struggling with many social problems and for the courage to speak prophetically.

30 WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, OTHER CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES, and PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS

World Council of Churches - For new dialogues among the religions; we especially pray for an increase of mutual understanding and a lessening of suspicion and hostility where interreligious conflicts arise.

We give thanks for the appointment of James E. Winkler as General Secretary of the National Council of Churches and pray for him and the leadership team to bring forth a new

strategic plan. Please remember in your prayers the work of the various program units and Church World Service. We pray for the Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, and for the Central Committee members and leaders of the program divisions; in thanksgiving for the tenth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Busan, South Korea (Oct.-Nov., 2013). We pray for the WCC at Bossey.

For other Christian Communities and particularly for the Middle East Council of Churches and its efforts to bring Peace and Justice; for international dialogues around the world; for regional Councils of Churches.

For people of other Faiths -
For new dialogues among the religions; we especially pray for an increase of mutual understanding and a lessening of suspicion and hostility where interreligious conflicts arise.

**31 POPE FRANCIS
Ministry of the Vatican**

For the leadership of the Holy See. For the safety and health of His Holiness Benedict XVI as he continues in his ministry. In thanksgiving for the Holy Father's visit to the United States.