

Dear Friends,

We live in a very divisive age where people are absorbed in their many differences. From political views to religious beliefs, from gender to cultural understandings, from even athletic affiliations to education preferences - we argue a lot. With insults, defamation seen on social media and in the real world, we feel stressed and alone. There is no escaping our many differences. We see them daily, and, even if we do not follow social media, we see arguments on the local and national news. We also have our own disagreements with people. Sometimes, it feels like there is no hope for any kind of unity.

I think that we are forgetting something very important – we call ourselves Christians and followers of Jesus Christ. Christ is the foundation of unity, despite our differences. We have much in common with our brothers and sisters in Christ. First of all, we are all sinners. Sin is a part of human nature, and no matter how hard we try, we cannot completely escape it. It is the Evil One who works hard to divide people, and when we do divide, he wins. We need to remember the mercy and love of God are the basis for unity. Some of us may hold different opinions regarding a variety of subjects, yet we are all the children of the same Heavenly Father.

St. Paul, in 1 Corinthians chapter 12, reminds us that all believers belong to Christ. We can surely use this reminder today. ***“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many... But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body... Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it”***. There is a place for diversity in the Body of Christ, but there is no place for disunity or division in it. Life would be boring if we all looked, thought, or behaved exactly the same way.



We need to remember this, especially when we come towards the altar to receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion. When we hear “the Body of Christ” and we answer “Amen”, we are acknowledging union with Him and with one another. We need to take it very seriously, as Jesus said ***“Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift”***. (Mt 5:23-24) In the Eucharist, the unity of all those who believe in Jesus is not only shown, but accomplished. This is what St. Paul meant when he wrote, ***“Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread”*** (1 Corinthians 10:17).

Let us remember praying for unity,  
Fr. Krzysztof Kardzis