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COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Lower Mainland Christians Uniting in Prayer *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity taking place January 18 to 25*

VANCOUVER (January 17, 2014) – **Has Christ been divided? (1 Cor. 1:13)** is the theme and question Christians in the Lower Mainland are asking themselves during the 2014 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25.

The week, prepared by churches and Christian communions, starts with a city-wide prayer service Sunday, Jan. 19, 7pm, First Lutheran Church, Vancouver, with Archbishop Michael Miller and other Christian leaders.

It ends Sunday, Jan. 26, with a special gathering and dialogue entitled Meet Your Relatives, between the Archdiocese of Vancouver and the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster. Register at the website below:

Meet your Relatives: Grassroots Ecumenism

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed around the world, said Marjeta Bobnar, coordinator of ecumenical and interfaith relations for the Archdiocese of Vancouver. During this Week all are invited to join with brothers and sisters of various churches in prayer, song, and witness to unity as followers of Christ.

"The Week of Prayer is a highlight of the work churches do together during the year," she said, noting Christian unity brings separated Christians together for united causes such as helping the poor, participating in study groups, and organizing events.

Catholics are joining members of other Christian denominations for prayer during the week, with prayer gatherings most days in Abbotsford and some days in Vancouver. For information visit the website below:

• Learn about the week and the special services

"It's important to recognize our common family bond," said Kyle Neilson, director of the Office of Evangelization. "No one wants a family to be separated, so anything that can bring us together and be fully and visibly united in Church is a great thing to do."

For more information on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and a list of local churches that are participating, visit <u>www.rcav.org/christian-unity</u>

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