

Yearly theme: Sent with Joy to Heal

August theme: Healing Towards Integration

Focus: Sent to the world to heal

Event: National Day

Social Media Trend: #pmptmerdeka

Introduction

The world as we know it is changing rapidly. Artificial intelligence, a 5G world, societal revolutions, political fluctuations and upheavals, and a new cashless payment system are now a permanent part of our lives. The Covid-19 pandemic and our almost total dependence on social media for communication and educational purposes, shows how much has changed in the world. And this has direct bearing on community, family and the Church. It seems that we are moving towards a more unified society, being able to quickly and easily connect with one another through Whatsapp, Twitter, Facebook, Zoom and other means. But in reality, are we becoming more united or separated from those around us?

Opening Prayer:

Invite a BEC Member to lead in prayer.

Opening Hymn

We Are One in The Bond of Love

We are one in the bond of love
We are one in the bond of love
We have joined our spirit
With the Spirit of God
We are one in the bond of love

Let us sing now everyone
Let us feel His love begun
Let us join our hands
That the world may know
We are one in the bond of love

Dialogue:

Amidst the many challenges we face and changes taking place today, it is important to be aware of the direction in which these challenges and changes are pulling us. That is, are they *unifying*, or are they *divisive*? We must ask ourselves this because we acknowledge ourselves to be an imperfect people of a perfect God. The reality is that there is a real potential for us, due to our imperfection, to sway towards divisive ways. Our God, on the other hand, is a God of order and not disorder; a God of unity and not division. Therefore, let us take heart and be encouraged, for as His people, we know that when we seek His guidance and pursue His will, we too become more like Him; we too become agents of unity and healing.

We can do this in various ways. For example, we can work for unity by helping people with a lesser voice be heard, or by working alongside impoverished families, to give them the support they need to eventually sustain themselves. We could work within a committee in church or an NGO to promote unifying causes, or simply speak out against injustice when we see it. When we encounter fake news from various sources, we can promote unity and healing by not participating in sharing said information, or by correcting their errors. Truly, this is part of our calling as Christians – to imitate Christ and be an agent of order in the face of disorder; an agent of unity in the face of division.

However, our participation in this unifying journey does not always fall outside of ourselves. Rather, there is much to be done within ourselves, as well. We must acknowledge that as imperfect beings, there may be areas of our lives that are currently in disorder. This, of course, is not an easy circumstance to admit. In fact, it requires a lot of courage to admit such a vulnerable reality. This is where we are able to depend on our brothers and sisters in our BEC community, to support us in our circumstances. In our shared vulnerability, let us support one another in our present circumstances, and thus be agents of unity amongst our fellow BEC members, as well. Let us trust that our God is working with us and supporting us in our endeavour, this day, and every day of our lives.

Buzz this month :

1. What are some of the ways by which the changes taking place around us are causing disunity in our families and our community?
2. Can I identify any areas in my life by which I myself am the cause of division in my relationships with others?

Discernment:

John 17: 20-23

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.

Reflection:

- We read the text for the first time.
- We read the text again in silence, and we listen intently to the word that the Lord wants to speak to us in our hearts.
- Each of us share aloud the word/phrase that touched us.
- We share why the word/phrase has touched us.
- Together, we choose a “word of life” which the group may reflect on for the coming month.

Deeds:

1. What is one practical way I could “look to the interests of others” especially in my home, promoting unity in my family?
2. What is one practical way I could “look to the interests of others” by promoting unity in my neighbourhood or workplace, or in society at large?

Closing Prayer

Dear God, we ask for your help in being a light in every place you’ve given us to walk. Give us care and wisdom as we live and work with one another. We make this prayer in the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Closing Hymn

You are the light (LNWHymns.com)

You are the Light - we see.
 You are the Truth - we know.
 You are the Life - we live.
 You are the Hope,
 You are the Joy,
 You are the Song we sing.

Within our hearts - Your light.
 Within our minds - Your truth.
 Within our lives - Your love.
 Living Your hope,
 Spreading Your joy,
 Singing Your beautiful song.

A decade of the Rosary or Divine Mercy may follow.