

## 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation

On 6 December, 2016, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) released materials to commemorate the 500 anniversary of the reformation. The materials were prepared by a joint CCCB-ELCIC working group. The resources entitled, ***Together in Christ*** are intended for parishes and ecumenical officers. The parish-based program can be used anytime throughout 2017. The homily resource, however, was prepared specifically for the concluding Sunday of the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The materials are being re-circulated as possible resources to be implemented in your faith communities as you begin to plan your fall 2017 pastoral activities.

The materials are as follows:

- 1) The first five attachments of the ***Together in Christ*** resource comprise all the necessary information required to run a five part parish study guide which covers the 500-year history since the Reformation. It is designed to foster mutual prayer, study, and conversation among Catholics, Lutherans and other Reformed traditions. The study guide can be used either in segments or as a whole by individual or joint ecumenical study groups.
- 2) The sixth attachment is a homily resource for January 29, 2017, the concluding Sunday of the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the date proposed for launching the parish study guide.

The attached six PDF documents, in English and French, are the following:

- 1-Together in Christ - Cover letter by the two Co-Chairs (introducing the materials)
- 2-Together in Christ – Promotion poster
- 3-Together in Christ - Leader's Guide (instructions on how to organize the discussion sessions)
- 4-Together in Christ - Participant's Guide
- 5-Together in Christ - Video script (written text of the audio visual material)
- 6-Together in Christ - Homily resources

For your convenience, please find attached as well the common prayer jointly developed by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Lutheran World Federation for use by Catholics and Lutherans on this occasion, entitled "From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017". Dioceses and eparchies are invited to use or adapt the resources according to local needs and interest.

All the aforementioned documents can be found in French and English at the following web-links:

### ENGLISH

<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/commissions-committees-and-aboriginal-council/national-commissions/christian-unity-religious-relations-with-the-jews-and-interfaith-dialogue/documents/4634-together-in-christ-lutherans-and-catholics-commemorating-the-reformation>

**FRENCH**

<http://www.cccb.ca/site/frc/commissions-comites-et-conseil-autochtone/commissions-nationales/unite-chretienne-relations-religieuses-avec-les-juifs-et-dialogue-interreligieux/documents/4634-ensemble-dans-le-christ-lutheriens-et-catholiques-commemorent-la-reforme>