

The **Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification** is the common statement signed at Augsburg, Germany by dialogue partners from the Lutheran World Federation and the Holy See of the Roman Catholic Church on October 31<sup>st</sup> 1999. The document was the result of years of ecumenical dialogue, and articulates their common understanding of the doctrine of justification by God's grace through faith in Christ. The signing of the declaration acknowledged that the mutual condemnations pronounced in the 16<sup>th</sup> century as a result of differences in expressing particularly this doctrine no longer apply. On July 18, 2006, members of the World Methodist Council meeting in Seoul, South Korea, voted unanimously to adopt this document as well. We rejoice that this critical milestone in interchurch relations has been reached and pray that ongoing efforts to promote Christian unity may be thereby made easier.

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

**To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification**

**by the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church**

Celebrant: God, you have freely given yourself to us in love and grace. As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, we come to pray together in humility and trust:

1. For all who profess discipleship of Jesus Christ..... (pause for silent prayer). May we be open to the Spirit, your gift to us, so that we may be formed into the likeness of your Son. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For the whole family of the Church ..... May we be a true sign and instrument of reconciliation with you and each other. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For the leaders of our faith communities. .... That in their efforts to heal denominational divisions of the past, they will point us to that fullness of communion which is your will for humanity and the whole of creation. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For those caught up in the evil of sin ..... That they will know the freedom of your grace and the joy of your forgiveness. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For those who despair or who ignore the stirrings of your grace ..... May their hearts be moved to confidence in your mercy, revealed and present to us in Jesus through the Spirit. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: We your people make these prayers in the name of your Son through whom we are justified and the Holy Spirit by whose action you name us sons and daughters. For this we thank you and praise you our God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.