



Scripture Theme 2022-2023

“One Body and One Spirit”

“As a prisoner for the Lord, I urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

– Ephesians 4:1-6

Background

Ephesians is one of the letters offered from St. Paul to the early Christian communities. This particular letter is focused on the unity of the Church and its mission in the world. These themes are fitting for the upcoming school year at Benilde-St. Margaret's. Now more than ever, it is crucial for us to continue to examine who we are and the mission we serve in our world. As our BSM philosophy states, “As a Catholic community, We unite through our shared humanity, by embracing our differences, while leading in one collective Spirit.”

This chapter of Paul's letter urges unity in the Church, going beyond the bond of baptism and adherence to specific beliefs. Rather, this call for unity is rooted in behavior. How do we use our gifts to manifest holiness? We shouldn't push things (parenthood, coaching, teaching, etc.) aside to become more holy. We should use these works as vehicles for holiness. Ultimately, the gifts that Christ has given us should lead to growth and renewal. While this text calls for unity, it doesn't dismiss that differences will arise in communal groups. It's a part of our human nature. It's how we handle our differences – namely with compassion, respect, love, and the ear of our heart – that can bring about unity. One Body and One Spirit.

The beauty of scripture is that the more we read it, the more we see ourselves in it. As we pray with our theme this year, let the Word sit within you - let it call to you and make you anew.

Questions for Reflection

- In another of his epistles, St. Paul mentions nine fruits of the Holy Spirit - *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*. Which one would you like to focus on this year? How can it bring about our theme of One Body and One Spirit?
- What are some aspects that unify BSM?
How can you elevate them in your classroom or work environment?
- What gifts do you bring to BSM?
Take some time to reflect on how those gifts create holiness within you.

