



# Pray without ceasing

**L**et us accept the invitation to “pray without ceasing”, which the Apostle Paul addressed to the first Christians of Thessalonica, a community which he himself had founded.

And precisely because he heard that disagreements had arisen, he counselled them to be patient with everyone, abstain from returning evil for evil and on the contrary to always seek good among themselves and with everyone, joyful in every circumstance, joyful because the Lord is near.

The advice that St Paul gave to the Thessalonians can still inspire the behaviour of Christians in the context of ecumenical relations today. Above all he said: “Be at peace among yourselves”, and then, “pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances” (*I Thes* 5: 13, 18). Let us also accept the Apostle’s pressing exhortation, both to thank the Lord for the progress achieved and to implore full unity.

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, obtain for all disciples of her divine Son that they may be able to live in peace and reciprocal charity as soon as possible, so as to bear a convincing witness of reconciliation before the whole world, in order to make accessible the Face of God in the Face of Christ, who is God-with-us, the God of peace and unity.

*Benedict XVI*