Cardinal Walter Kasper, writing in “Martin Luther, An Ecumenical Perspective,” has stated: “Christian ecumenism is concerned with the unity of the church in service to the unity and peace of the world.”

Ecumenism and concern for inter-religious dialogue and cooperation is promoted by the Vatican II documents, Nostra Aetate, the Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions; Lumen Gentium, the Declaration on the Religious Liberty; and Ad Gentes, the Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church.

From the very inception of this Commission, understanding and cooperation developed. On several occasions, such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Week of Prayer for the Holy See of Rome, representatives of the Roman Catholic and Polish National Catholic Churches pray Stations of the Cross at Cathedral of Saint Peter, 1993. Representatives of various Christian faith traditions at an Ecumenical Celebration of God’s Word at the Cathedral of Saint Peter itself actually during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 2014.

Promoting Social Justice, Moral Values and Peace for All

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

Cardinal Robert Sarah has stated: “Christian ecumenism is concerned with the unity of the church in service to the unity and peace of the world.”

Catholics have long sought to follow the example of Jesus in being “the salt of the earth and the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13). This year, the Diocese of Scranton is inviting Catholics to consider whether they are effectively following this call.

The Diocese of Scranton is one of the largest dioceses in the Catholic Church. It is comprised of approximately 165 parishes, 51 Catholic schools, and 48 Catholic Charities locations.

In 2017, Bishop Bambera was named national chair of the local Polish National Catholic Church.

In his encyclical, Ut Unum Sint, issued May 25, 1995, Saint John Paul II stated “…promoting Christian unity is not just some sort of “appendage” which is added to the Church’s traditional activity. Rather, ecumenism is an organic, part of her life and work, and consequently must pervade all that she is and does; it must be like the fruit borne by a healthy and flourishing tree which grows to its full stature.”

In addition to its work regarding relations between Christians and other faiths, in 1967, the inaugural Diocesan Commission on Ecumenical and Human Affairs addressed a range of issues including racial discrimination and ministry to migrant workers.

In 2018, a monument bearing the Latin titles of Duchesne and a Passionist, a Aiudt, and 2022, was dedicated on the grounds of Holy Cross High School in Dunmore. The monument, part of the national Project for Peace initiative, is executed through the generosity of Alan Goldstein, a member of Temple Israel in Scranton, and in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

In 2017, Bishop Remmert was named national director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs. It promotes dialogue between religions as well as dialogue between Christians and it is the US Bishops’ liaison with the Holy See for ecumenical matters. He also co-chairs an annual meeting of the Roman Catholic – Polish National Catholic Church dialogue, which was first established in 1964.