“That they may all be one” (John 17:21).

These words from Jesus are the foundation of the Focolare spirituality (The Work of Mary). Jesus is teaching us of unity, communion, one Body of Christ, all of us children of God.

Contrast that with many attitudes and events in the world today: division, violence, disrespect, name-calling, discord. During this season of Lent, how can we make progress in unity? How is the Lord calling us to “encourage one another and build up each other” (1 Thessalonians 5:11), as St. Paul teaches?

An example from the current Kansas legislative session:

We unite with the preborn babies and their moms. We unite with those who do not have adequate healthcare. We are called by God to love, care for, and assist all these sisters and brothers in Christ (cf. Matthew 25:31-46). How to do this in proposed legislation?

First, the “Value Them Both” state constitutional amendment should be passed. This will allow Kansans to vote in August to say there is no “natural right” to abortion in the Kansas Constitution. This constitutional amendment will protect moms and their unborn children. We value both the mother and her little child. We unite with them both.

Then, second, the Medicaid Expansion bill, without abortion and with conscience protection for healthcare providers, should be passed. This will allow over 150,000 Kansas to receive healthcare that they currently cannot afford or do not have. This program will assist individuals and families that cannot pay for health insurance, yet do not qualify for coverage under the Affordable Care Act. We value all these Kansans. We unite with them all.

For more information on these complex issues, see our Kansas Catholic Conference website (www.KansasCatholic.org/). Join Kansans in prayer. Our efforts are consecrated to Our Lady of
Guadalupe, asking our Blessed Mother Mary’s intercession (https://kansasrosarycrusade.org/). Contact your legislators (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/).

May we *unite* as we follow St. Luke’s description in the early Church: “*They showed us unusual kindness*” (Acts 28:2). Let us be one in Christ, with the precious girls and boys in the womb and their moms, and with those who need healthcare. Jesus will give us wisdom, courage, patience, and unconditional love, that we may unify all His children. The Lord loves us more than we can ask or imagine.