



September 8, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, I wish to personally welcome all of you who have come from near and far to our beloved Kansas City during these days of October 24-26, for the Kairós 2017 United in Christ Conference.

I am sure that you are all aware of the historical ecumenical events that have already taken place here in the heartland of the United States. Your decision to be gathered here during these days makes you a part of something much greater than any one of us. A current of grace was opened up only a short distance from here in 1901, prayed for by both Catholics and Protestants, as a hopeful call for renewal among the Christian faithful. A renewal grounded by a profound and powerful experience of the Holy Spirit shared by the first faithful disciples gathered together in the upper room in Jerusalem. Over the next 76 years this current of grace was experienced by both Protestants and Catholics alike, which led to a gathering of thousands here in Kansas City at Arrowhead Stadium for the 1977 Conference on Charismatic Renewal in the Christian Churches praying and interceding for the healing of the divisions that existed between us.

I find that the choice of Kansas City by God in his providence to be an incredibly prophetic act. I say this because there have been historically many opportunities to divide our community. We have been divided by civil war, politics, state lines, county lines, rivers, cultures, wealth, race, dioceses, and even sports. In spite of all these calls for division, Kansas City, in hearts and minds of those who call her home, strives to be united as one. As we gather here to pray for understanding, repentance, revival and unity, it is my sincerest desire that our days together will also be a prophetic act and a concrete answer to the prayer of Our Lord Jesus Christ:

*That they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. John 17:21*

May our Good and Loving Father bring to completion the good work that he has begun in all of you during these days, and may what begins here in the heart of our country help our nation and our world to also find the unity and peace that comes from Christ alone.

Sincerely yours in Jesus, the Lord of Life,

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann