

Editorial

Approximately seven months ago Pope Paul VI promulgated the *Decree On Ecumenism* of Vatican II. It is, no doubt, an understatement to label this document unique and significant in the history of the Church. Many Church leaders and scholars have taken active steps to put its directives into action. Yet, it is possible that many members of Christ's Mystical Body easily forget the *Decree* and its wonderful contents. Some may have been greatly impressed when they read it. They were filled with enthusiasm. But, their enthusiasm has waned. Others may not have read it at all under the assumption that it pertained only to Church leaders and those specifically involved in ecumenical studies and projects. Thus, we shall recall some of the more pertinent passages of the *Decree On Ecumenism* with the hope that more Catholics will be moved to read the document and practice its counsels perseveringly in faith and charity according to their abilities.

The Council Fathers have said that men on both sides are to blame for the separation existing among Christians. The notion, "They're all wrong; we're all right!" is not tenable. We Catholics are urged to acknowledge and esteem the truly Christian endowments from our common heritage which are to be found among our separated brothers.

The *Decree* recommends that we become familiar with the outlook of men of other communions, that we study their beliefs with a sense of realism and good will.

Concern for the union of all in the Church of Christ should be found in each one of us. All the faithful are encouraged to take an active and intelligent part in the work of ecumenism. Moreover, we are reminded that the more effort we make to live holier lives, the more will we further the movement toward Christian unity. Necessary for its success are a change of heart, a true Christian life lived in the spirit of the Gospels and public and private prayer.

The *Decree On Ecumenism* was promulgated to urge all Catholics to participate in some way in the ecumenical movement. We all must dispose ourselves for and cooperate with the grace of the Holy Spirit and do what we can to achieve Christian unity. For some this may

mean study or dialogue. For most, it means, at least, a greater expression of charity toward our separated brothers and increased prayer for unity. The road leading to Christian oneness is long and arduous. Discouragement must not overtake us on the way. Faith and love will push us on when enthusiasm has left us. We cannot afford to allow the *Decree* to become a dead letter in our lives. Its message is for each one of us. We all have to read it, indeed, study it and put its directives into practice in whatever way we can. Let it not be said that we could relax and remain unmoved while there still exists the division which "openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature."

The Sister's Role in Vocations

a seminar

Catholic University, Washington, D. C.

july 11, 1965

Sister Mary del Ray of Maryknoll

principal speaker

A BIBLE VIGIL ON VOCATIONS given by the Very Rev. Msgr. Martin Christopher
director of vocations in Washington, D. C.

PANEL: Doctor John Kinnane, Miss Susanna Dick, Bro. E. Anthony F.S.C.,
Sr. Ansilla S.B.S. and Rev. John Corrigan