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IV

8. The koinonia is not only realised in the local Christian communities: it is also to be realised in the communion of these communities with one another. The unity of local communities under one Bishop constitutes what is commonly meant in our two communions by 'a local church', though the expression is sometimes used in other ways. Each local church is rooted in the witness of the apostles and entrusted with the apostolic mission; so, being faithful to the unique apostolic teaching, celebrating the same eucharist and dedicated to the service of the same Lord, it is a manifestation of the church of Christ. Despite diversities each recognises its own essential features in the other local churches and therefore its true identity with them. Consequently the authoritative action and proclamation of the People of God to the world is not simply the responsibility of each church acting separately, but of all the local churches together. The faithfulness and spiritual gifts of one of them may be an incentive to the others. Each bishop, having the principal responsibility to ensure that the local church remains an authentic Christian community, has to make it aware of this universal communion to which it belongs. As bishop he expresses this communion of his church with the others; this is symbolised by the participation of several bishops in his ordination.