Church as Communion

DISCUSSION RESOURCE FOR ANGLICANS AND ROMAN CATHOLICS

A three week adult education program to enable Anglicans and Roman Catholics to reflect, share and discuss important issues on the topic of 'Church as Communion'. The target time for the program is the three weeks before Pentecost, however it may be used at any time of the year.

Each week's session (about ninety minutes) consists of an opening prayer, brief quotes from the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission document 'Church as Communion', everyday stories, discussion questions and closing prayer.

The words community, communication and communion share common Latin words 'cum' ('with') and 'unus' ('one'). All three words have at the heart of their meaning to be 'one with' another. For communication to be effective we need to be 'one with' the other person as we attend to their verbal and physical expressions.

In community, bonds of friendship are built through a shared sense of purpose and achievement. Communion, however, is the most profound level of being 'one with' another. It implies a far deeper level of commitment and unity. The concept of 'communion' is central to who we are as persons – in relationships with others and in our relationship with our God.

From the time of the historic visit of Archbishop Michael Ramsey to Pope Paul VI in 1966, Anglicans and Roman Catholics have been committed to a goal: to work for 'a restoration of complete communion of faith and sacramental life.' This discussion resource is one practical step for local communities to make in that direction. It is being published for use in Australia by the local Anglican - Roman Catholic dialogue group called AustARC.

To read the full 'Church as Communion' document see the internet site below:
http://www.prounione.urbe.it/dia-int/arcic/doc/e_arcicII_communion.html

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