

by the Revd. David Chaplin

1. GENERAL

The Anglican/Roman Catholic Commission on Mixed Marriages met in London, England, in November, 1971. The Report on the meeting has not yet been published.

On July 7th the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity issued an "Instruction concerning cases when other Christians may be admitted to Eucharistic communion in the Catholic Church." This has been welcomed as a further positive step in inter-Church relations, which will be a help to isolated Anglicans in different parts of the world.

2. AUSTRALASIA

New Zealand

The Anglican General Synod 1972 adopted resolutions which commended the study of the Agreed Statement on Eucharistic Doctrine "as an ecumenical essay and as a guide to the meaning of the Eucharist", referred the Statement to a Committee which would report its findings to the Primate to pass on to the Anglican Consultative Council by the end of 1972, and commended the Statement for study to Anglican/Roman Catholic Study Groups in New Zealand.

3. AFRICA

South Africa

The following is a summary of the development of Anglican/Roman Catholic relations in South Africa:

1. Five bishops of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference meet from time to time with five bishops of the Anglican Episcopal Synod.
2. A consultation involving five members of each Church meets from time to time for theological discussion. Its latest meeting has produced the Working Paper on the Ministry.
3. A representative from each Church has been appointed to the Liturgical Commission of the other.
4. An experimental text has been drawn up for mixed marriages.
5. An interchange of staff between St. Peter's Seminary and the Federal Theological Seminary, Alice.
6. A jointly produced correspondence course in theology - more than 500 have enrolled.
7. Joint publications - Die Brug (an Afrikaans monthly magazine), and Kehilwenyane (a popular monthly in Tswana, also involving the Republic of Botswana).
8. In Odendaalsrus and Durban churches are permanently shared with a legal arrangement governing usage and maintenance. A new building, jointly paid for, was dedicated by the local Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops at the end of February. More exploration is to take place in respect of shared and/or jointly owned buildings.

## Central Africa

In Zambia Anglicans, Roman Catholics and the United Church are endeavouring to enter shared theological training at Foxdale. In Malawi Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Presbyterians co-operate in theological training. The Rhodesian Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches proclaimed their common statement on Baptism, with mutual recognition, on Whitsunday. In Tanzania consultations are taking place with regard to agreed translations of the Lord's Prayer and other common forms.

## 4. EUROPE

### England

There have been exchanges of preachers, joint conferences for clergy and for junior clergy, joint retreats, joint participation in the "Call to the North" and in plans for one of the new towns. The Venice Papers and the Agreed Statement on Eucharistic Doctrine have been the subject of innumerable joint discussion groups and meetings. Cardinal Alfrink of Utrecht was the preacher at an Ecumenical Service in Ripon Cathedral in August to mark its 1300th anniversary. Cardinal Willebrands is to be the guest of the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth in October. There has been extensive and increasing co-operation between the Bible Reading Fellowship and the Catholic Biblical Association and other similar organisations.

### Scotland

The Joint Study Group (representing the Roman Catholic Church and the Scottish Episcopal Church) discussed and commented on the Windsor Agreed Statement at its full meeting in January. It welcomed the Statement and its 'biblical and so ecumenical' presentation of theology. It asked for amplification of the discussion on Sacrifice and felt a need to examine what belongs to faith and what to theology in an approach to the Eucharist.

### Wales

A new Anglican/Roman Catholic Joint Working Group held its first meeting in October, 1971, to begin the task of establishing where the two Churches stand in relation to each other theologically, liturgically, and in all other aspects of the religious life of their members.

### West Europe

A second meeting of the West European Anglican/Roman Catholic Working Group was held in Malines, Belgium, in November, 1971, bringing together participants from Belgium, France, Holland, Germany and England. Recommendations were made for the setting up of joint working groups to study together the problems of Christian life and apostolic action; for frequent exchange of pulpits and sharing in common liturgies of the Word; for provision to be made for the presence of Anglican delegates at the various levels of Roman Catholic committees dealing with pastoral problems. And it was recommended that "the Roman Catholic bishops should consider with great understanding and favour the pressing spiritual need of isolated Anglicans living on the West European continent and therefore their admission to the hospitality of the eucharistic table."

Anglican/Roman Catholic Working Group in Belgium

The Anglican Church in Belgium has agreed to endorse a "Mutual Recognition of Baptism" already signed by the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches there, partly in view of its ecclesiological implications.

The Anglican members of the Working Group were invited to receive Communion at the Roman Catholic Eucharist celebrated after their meeting in June, at which one of the Anglican clergy read the Gospel and preached. It was felt that this gave liturgical expression to the present state of Anglican-Roman Catholic relations there, and to the Windsor Agreed Statement on Eucharistic Doctrine.

Anglican/Roman Catholic Working Group in France

This Group is composed of members appointed by the French Episcopal Conference and by the Bishop of Fulham and Gibraltar. It meets twice a year and is primarily concerned with pastoral problems such as sacramental ministrations to Anglicans living in isolation, tourists who are victims of accident or illness, etc.

5. NORTH AMERICA

U.S.A.

The 11th meeting of the United States Anglican/Roman Catholic Consultation took place in New York City in January, 1972, and adopted a statement on Doctrinal Agreement and Christian Unity: Methodological Considerations. A comment was also issued on the Agreed Statement on Eucharistic Doctrine.

Canada

After months of exploratory talks, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Roman Catholic Church in Canada have launched an ecumenical dialogue to promote Christian unity. Co-Chairmen are the Anglican Bishop of Athabasca, R.J. Pierce, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Pembroke, J.L. Windle. Because of the current conversations between the Anglican and United Churches, a U.C. observer will be invited to future meetings.

6. ASIA

India

Co-operation between Anglican and Roman Catholic Religious Orders in India includes the inauguration of an Ashram for Roman Catholic and Anglican Religious living together for ecumenical work and work amongst educated Hindus.

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