

## Archbishop Ramsey's Response

*From the text of a sermon given by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey, in Canterbury Cathedral, during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 1971.*

So, be of good cheer. Be thankful. There is much for which we shall thank God. . . .

As to the Church of Rome I have two things to say. First, I believe that the new Papal Motu Proprio on mixed marriages brings a good deal of help to a vexed problem, so long as it is acted upon to the full. Second, I welcome gratefully the words used by His Holiness the Pope on October 25. "There will be no seeking to lessen the legitimate prestige and the worthy patrimony of piety and usage proper to the Anglican Church when the Roman Catholic Church . . . is able to embrace her ever beloved sister in the one authentic communion of the family of Christ . . ." Responding to the warmth of these words I said in my Christmas letter to the Pope: "I read with happiness the words which Your Holiness spoke of warm and friendly feeling towards the Anglican Communion . . . and you can be sure that your warmth of feeling to us Anglicans is reciprocated in Anglican hearts and minds in the hope that one day there will be between us a consummated unity which conserves all that is true and good in our several traditions." The implications of the Pope's words can be rightly examined by Roman Catholics and Anglicans together, and this lies within the ongoing task of the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission.

Canterbury, Jan. 24, 1971