

Without the search for unity faith would be abandoned



The Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church recalls that ecumenical efforts are closely connected with missionary work because the division of Christians is prejudicial to the holy task of preaching the Gospel and “deprives many people of access to the faith” (Ad Gentes, n. 6). Moreover the ecumenical commitment pervades the whole of the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, as can be deduced in particular from its concluding paragraphs: “At the same time our thoughts go out to those brothers and communities not yet living in full communion with us; yet we are united by our worship of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and the bonds of love” (Gaudium et Spes, n. 92).

Above all there is a deep connection between the Decree on Ecumenism and the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church in which the foundations of faith of the Catholic Church's ecumenical commitment are to be found. Ecumenism is quite different from a matter of mere ecclesial policy or a purely pragmatic issue; rather, it is intrinsic to the faith itself. For this reason the Year of Faith also calls us to actualize the foundations of faith of the Church's ecumenical endeavour and to reinforce them anew, in the face of a profoundly changed ecumenical situation.

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