

On the Augsburg Confession

Following is the text of remarks made by Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession.

My thoughts turn today to a memorable day in the history of Western Christianity. Four hundred and fifty years ago the forerunners of our brothers and sisters of the Evangelical Lutheran Confession submitted a document to the Emperor (Charles V) and the Imperial Diet at Augsburg, with the intention of witnessing to their faith "in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church." This document has become a part of the history of Christianity under the title of the Augsburg Confession.

As a confessional text it remains today a fundamental document for the confession of faith and the ecclesial life of Lutheran Christians and others.

To look back at the historical events of 450 years ago and, still more at the developments which followed, fills us with sadness and sorrow. We must recognize that, despite the honest desire and the serious effort of all concerned, they did not succeed in avoiding the tensions that threatened between the Roman Catholic Church and the evangelical reform. The last real attempt to restore peace at the Diet of Augsburg foundered. Soon afterwards, the point of clear division was reached.

We are all the more grateful that today we see with even greater clearness that at that time, even if there was no success in building a bridge, the storms of that age spared important piers of that bridge. The intense and long-standing dialogue with the Lutheran Church, called for and made possible by the Second Vatican Council, has enabled us to discover how great and solid are the common foundations of our Christian Faith.

Today as we look at the history of the divisions of Christianity, we are more aware than ever what tragic and scandalous consequences human failure and human guilt have over a long period, and how they can obscure Christ's will and damage the dignity of faith in the Good News.

The Second Vatican Council has reminded us that there is an intimate relationship between the constant renewal of the Church in the power of the Gospel and the safeguarding of its unity and also the restoration of its unity.

I want to urge all the faithful and particularly



Bishop Clark is shown here greeting Greg and Michelle Isabelle as their mother Lois looks on.

Center Dedicated In Red Creek

Red Creek — Bishop Matthew Clark dedicated the John M. Duffy Parish Center at St. Thomas parish here recently. The newly remodeled center is named after the late Msgr. Duffy who was born in Red Creek. During the dedication ceremonies Bishop Clark, Father William Gaynor, former pastor at St. Thomas, Father William Gordinier, present pastor, and Father Charles Latus, the bishop's secretary, concelebrated Mass. After his visit to Red Creek, Bishop Clark traveled to nearby Fair Haven to bless a newly constructed shrine to St. Jude, donated by the O'Connor family of Rochester. The bishop greeted parishioners from Red Creek and Fair Haven and attended a Sunday afternoon picnic after the ceremonies.

theologians, and to beg them unceasingly that, faithful to Christ and his Gospel, faithful to the "primitive Church," faithful to our common fathers of the Church and to our common Ecumenical Councils, we may seek all there is in the apostolic heritage that unites us with our brothers and sisters, in order that we may discover anew the treasure of one common creed.

The world of the late 20th century in which we live is characterized by the mark of an indescribable hunger. The world is hungry and thirsty for the confession of Christ and for witness to Christ by word and by deed. Christ who alone can satisfy this hunger and thirst.

With all my heart I greet all the Christians who, today and in the days to come, will be gathering in Augsburg to confirm, in the face of the fears and pessimism of a troubled humanity, that Jesus-Christ is the salvation of the world, the Alpha and Omega of everything that exists. I greet also all Christians who are gathering in many places all over the world on the occasion of this 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession, so that from the Gospel of creation by God, of Redemption by Jesus Christ, and of the call to one People of God, there may develop a new force for a confession of faith full of hope, today and tomorrow. The will of Christ and the signs of the times are leading us to a common witness in a growing fullness of truth and love.

Eucharistic Rites

The Peoples Eucharistic League will gather for a holy hour at Holy Trinity Church, Webster, tomorrow, Thursday, at 7:30 p.m. Father Thomas Corbett will lead the devotions.

Spiritual Singles

The Spiritual Singles Community will hold a social dinner July 26 at 7 p.m. Further information on the event is available by calling Patty Genco, 663-3990; Patty Lipka, 254-4286; or Mary Ellen Scheible, 254-0551.

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50 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony R. Michalski, of Northaven Terrace, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in a vow-renewal

ceremony at St. Andrew's Church. The couple was later feted at a reception hosted by their sons Ronald and Dennis.

The Tic-Toc Players

PRESENT

The House at Pooh Corner

A. A. Milne
with Winnie the Pooh

Wed. Jul 9	2 pm	Wed. Jul 16	2 pm	Wed. Jul 23	2 pm
Thur. Jul 10	2 pm	Thur. Jul 17	2 pm	Thur. Jul 24	2 pm
Fri. Jul 11	2 pm	Fri. Jul 18	2 pm	Fri. Jul 25	2 pm
Sat. Jul 12	2 pm	Sat. Jul 19	2 pm	Sat. Jul 26	2 pm
Sun. Jul 13	2 pm	Sun. Jul 20	2 pm	Sun. Jul 27	2 pm

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Sunday: Spaghetti Dinner 1:00 • Booths Open at 4:00

Inky the Clown 6:30 Sunday **Vindini the Magician 5:00 Sunday** **Sunday Night Band Concert 8:30**

Italian Mass Celebrated 12:15 Sunday by Father Contegiaco

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