

Anglicans respond to 'Ut unum sint'

Pope John Paul II has issued 12 encyclicals to date. Much attention was given to his three major social encyclicals (1981, 1987 and 1991) and to his two, more controversial pronouncements on moral theology (1993 and 1995). What is perhaps his most daring encyclical, *Ut unum sint* ("That They May Be One"), has received considerably less attention in the media since its release three years ago.

The pope acknowledged in that encyclical that the manner in which the papal office is exercised is open to criticism and improvement. Indeed, he invited his readers, especially the pastoral leaders and theologians of the various separated churches, to share their views and suggestions with him. The most substantive and thoughtful response to date has been offered by the bishops of the Church of England in a document entitled, "May They All Be One" (London: Church House Publishing, 1997).

The Anglican bishops remind us that the notion of primacy is not exclusively Roman Catholic. Anglican bishops exercise a pastoral primacy in their own dioceses, and there are primates of the various provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The archbishop of Canterbury, of course, fulfills a distinctively primatial role within that Communion. While his ministry has been focused traditionally in his convening of, and presiding over, the



essays in theology

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Lambeth Conference every 10 years or so, he has engaged increasingly in an important pastoral and evangelical ministry throughout the whole Anglican world, and beyond.

The bishops point out, however, that much remains unclear in both traditions regarding the specific nature and exercise of the teaching office of the church, and particularly that of the Bishop of Rome.

... What is the relationship between the Bishop of Rome and the rest of the college of bishops, the *sensus fidelium* of the whole church, and the Roman Curia?

What is the deposit of faith, and how does the church distinguish between what is essential to the tradition and what is secondary (as in such matters as the ordination of women and the Marian dogmas)? The Anglican bishops insist that they, too, consider "a living teaching authority" to be "essential for the authentic proclamation of the gospel to each generation," al-

though they also emphasize that such authority belongs in the first instance to the whole church.

Bishops have a crucial role to play as well, but in the Anglican experience bishops exercise this role "in synod," collegially, in keeping with the practice of the church during the first millennium.

Accordingly, the bishops' statement regrets that the encyclical makes "so little reference" to ecumenical councils and to the conciliar process in general as they apply to the formulation of faith.

Indeed, the bishops continue to be concerned, as are many Roman Catholics, with the heavy emphasis, especially since the beginning of the second millennium, on papal jurisdiction over the universal church, to the detriment of the "integrity of the episcopal college and ... the apostolic authority of the bishops."

Another major area of concern is the traditional Roman Catholic claim that visible communion with the Church of Rome and its bishop is "an essential requisite of full and visible communion with the Body of Christ."

While acknowledging the historic roles of the Church of Rome and its bishop in the expressing and safeguarding of the unity of the church, the Anglican bishops point out that the papal ministry has not always been crucial to the process of insuring visible communion. On the contrary, the church of the first millennium

maintained its unity not primarily through the exercise of the papal ministry but through the multiple pastoral activities of all the bishops, sometimes in direct confrontation with the Bishop of Rome.

The Anglican bishops may have been too polite to mention that, far from preserving the unity of the church at the time of the East West Schism and the Protestant Reformation, individual popes actually helped to precipitate those historic ruptures of unity.

"The structure of the papacy as it has developed during the second millennium," the bishops write, "has been very different from the apostolic and patristic pattern." They would welcome, therefore, "an approach which looks to our common heritage," without trying simply to reproduce the earlier model.

Toward the end of their statement, the bishops of the Church of England touch upon one of the most ecumenically sensitive questions addressed at Vatican II: Is the Body of Christ limited to the churches that are in communion with Rome, or does it include the other Christian churches as well?

The weight of Roman Catholic theological opinion is on the side of the latter, just as this Anglican document would hope.

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CEMETERIES of the Rochester Catholic Diocese

The cemeteries below paid a nominal fee to be listed on this page. A number of other Catholic cemeteries chose not to be listed, primarily because they are no longer selling burial plots.

Monroe & Livingston Counties

1. Holy Cross Cemetery
Stone Falls Road
Dansville
716-335-2700
2. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery & Mausoleum
2461 Lake Avenue
Rochester
716-458-4110
3. Mount Olivet
East Canal Road
Office 152 Main Street
Brockport
716-637-4500
4. Saint Mary's
Crosset Road
Geneseo
716-243-1100
5. St. Patrick's
46 Stanley Street
Mt. Morris
716-658-2110
6. St. Patrick's
115 Maple Ave.
Victor
(716) 924-7111

Monroe & Livingston Counties

7. St. Rose
1985 Lake Avenue
Lima
716-624-1005

Finger Lakes

8. St. Bernard's
2841 Center Road
Scipio Center
315-364-8172
9. St. Bridget's
15 Church Street
East Bloomfield
716-657-7626
10. St. Patrick's
51 Grove Street
Moravia
315-497-0626

Southern Tier

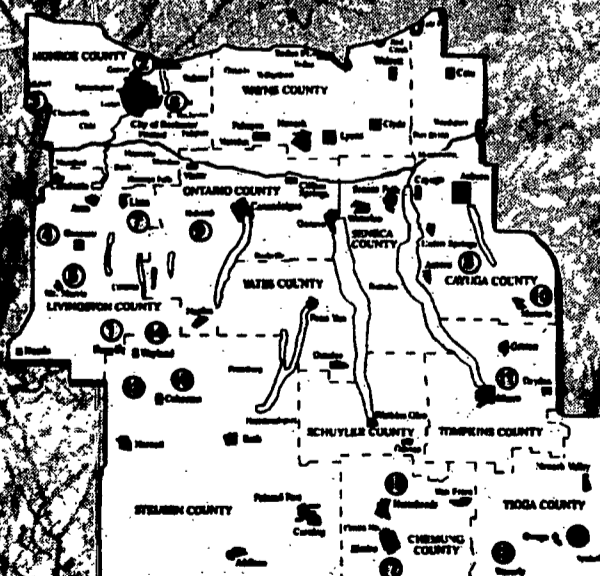
11. Calvary of the Church of the Immaculate Conception
113 North Center Street
Lima
716-278-1111

Southern Tier

12. Sacred Heart of Jesus
Chapel Street
Perkinsville
716-384-5500
13. St. James
503 Clark Street
Waverly
607-565-2014
14. St. Joseph's
Route 66
Wayland
716-728-2228
15. St. Mary Our Mother
816 West Broad Street
Horseheads
607-739-3817
16. St. Patrick's
Route 17C
Owego
607-687-1068

Southern Tier

17. St. Peter & Paul Cemetery
623 Franklin St.
Elmira
607-732-6431
18. St. Pius V
35 Maple Street
Cohocton
716-384-5500



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1. Genesis, 2. Esther, Ruth, 3. 150, 4. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, 5. Acts of the Apostles, 6. Revelation