

Today's Intention: The re-
turn of the Eastern Orthodox
Churches to the Holy See.

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Tomorrow's Intention: The
submission of Anglicans to
the Vicar of Christ.

One Fold And One Shepherd

American missionaries of various denominations have gone into pagan lands to lead the people to Christianity, and have been taunted with this query: "How can you be bringing the truths of Christianity to us when you do not even agree among yourselves what are the truths of Christianity?"

That's the scandal of Christianity in the eyes of unbelievers!

Last summer, when the World Council of Churches met on the campus of Northwestern University at Evanston, the theme of unity was one of its major preoccupations. But it was evident from the outset that if any kind of unity was to be achieved by these delegates on non-Catholic Christian churches, it would not be the unity of creed.

They stood up and asserted that they were witnesses to the belief in Christ -- but they shied away from the touchy subject of His teachings. Why?

Because Creed is a matter of belief in truth, and truth is one and cannot be compromised. If you believe that Jesus Christ is God, and I believe He is not, then we cannot both be right. Either He is God, or He isn't. There is no middle ground.

The disunity of the assembly was emphasized when a common Communion service was attempted. Quite understandably the Orthodox delegates, who believe in and actually have the Real Presence, objected to attending a service in which communion was just a memorial of the Lord's Supper. The delegates were very much disturbed by this lack of unity.

Ultimately they all packed up and went home -- each retaining his own slant on Christianity, his own beliefs, his own interpretations. The council's meeting turned out to be a colorful, religious spectacle, hardly anything more.

And yet, they are all children of a common Father -- Christ. At one time, they all belonged to one household of Christianity, and listened to one teacher as he sat in his chair of authority and interpreted for them, without fear of error, the teachings of Christ. One by one, as time went on, they walked out of this apostolic household, with their individual interpretations of Christ's teachings.

And these are the days when we pray that they will all come back again to the House of their common Father -- the Apostolic Church established by Christ. This unity can never be achieved by compromise but, we believe, only by submission to the Apostolic Church, conversion to the Church, and reconciliation with the Church. Unity cannot be found in some kind of vague organization made up of various groups that agree on the doctrines to be accepted.

And though this Apostolic Church does not claim that all her members are saints, or that those who are not her members are destined for hell, yet she does assert that she is the one means of salvation set up by God; and that all others, of a consequence, must be false. The Apostolic Church of Peter does not claim that her members alone are virtuous; nor does she say that virtue alone is a guarantee, or proof of doctrinal truth. Just because some people outside the Church are good and noble, it does not follow that the religious group to which they belong is true or valid.

PRAYERS -- Ill: father of Charles Simpson of Badin; father of Stan Evanowski of Old College; grandfather of Pat Snyder of Dillon; Father Maloney, C.S.C. 3
Special Intentions.

Tomorrow at 4:45 p.m. The Holy Hour in Sacred Heart Church.