

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 10, 1933.

Two Special Masses Tomorrow.

6:30 - Mass in the church for the team. (Go to confession tonight.)
8:00 - Requiem Mass in the church for the repose of the soul of Paul McGannon, '08, who died during the summer. The 9:00 Mass Sunday will be for the same intention. Alumni, please note. These Masses are requested by a non-Catholic friend of Paul's.

A Cord of Wood is not a Tree.

A recent movement among Episcopalians towards "Church unity" has been reported in the newspapers. A meeting of the house of bishops at Davenport, Iowa, which began Nov. 7, included in its agenda certain proposals of Bishop Wilson, of Eau Claire, for the linking of "Episcopalians and Scandinavian Protestants on the one hand and American adherents of central European national groups on the other."

Four items are proposed for adoption by the adherents of the plan of unity: "the primary source of doctrine is the Bible; the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds comprise a sufficient statement of the Christian faith; the primary Sacraments are Baptism and the Lord's Supper; there should be a locally adapted historical episcopate."

Who are the prospects of this united church? "The Polish National Church, the Old Catholic Church, 'a group of 69 congregations of South European Christians,' a group of Ukrainian churches, several groups of Arabic-speaking Jacobites, and two Lutheran groups." (The Menophysites, the Priscillians, the Sabellianists, the Pelagians and Semi-Pelagians, and the Monothelites are not specifically mentioned, but otherwise the list looks like the index of a history of heresy and schism.)

One obstacle to unity is noted, "the stiffness of Canon Law in respect to the use of the Book of Common Prayer." Bishop Wilson sees a way, however, to permit these other bodies to follow their own traditional usages and forms of worship; he feels that since the house of bishops has been unable to eradicate the use of the Roman Missal by particular Episcopalians, they may tolerate lesser abuses of the Canon Law.

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Well, it's their problem, not ours, and we are content to let them wrestle with it. For the information of our own students of Apologetics, however, we wish to point out that no matter how many lopped-off branches you pile up, they will not make a vine. The figure is Our Lord's. He said:

"I am the true vine and My Father is the husbandman.

"Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit, He will take away: and every one that beareth fruit, he will purge it, that it may bring forth more fruit....

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abide in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

"I am the vine; you the branches: he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing.

"If any one abide not in Me, he shall be cast forth as a branch, and shall wither, and they shall gather him up, and cast him into the fire, and he burneth." - St. John, xv.

"Ubi Petrus, ibi ecclesia." It is still true. Until they get St. Peter into their church, their work has only the value of a human organization. A cord of wood will never make a tree.

PRAYERS: Deceased, the father of Archibald Dayberry, C.S.C.; a friend killed in high school football. Ill, Albert Schwartz's cousin (spinal meningitis).