

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT ECUMENISM AND INTERFAITH ENDEAVOURS

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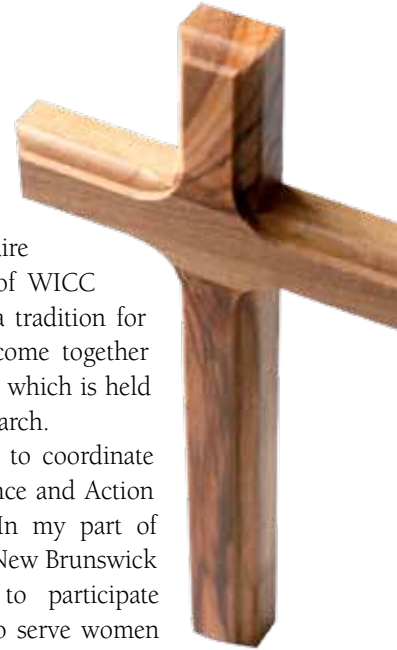
Most of us growing up in the '40s remember the legacy of The Salvation Army band concerts on street corners. And how many young Catholics were invited to the kitchen table of a Mormon family to learn of Joseph Smith? Those were the days of easy encounters with those of other denominations. However, things changed in high school. Catholics stayed within the boundaries of Catholic institutions and never gathered officially or otherwise with "our separated brethren". Those of other denominations may have wondered what happened to the "good old days"? We were missed!

Enter the Second Vatican Council with an explosive document entitled *Unitatis Redintegratio* (Decree on Ecumenism). This document, approved on November 21, 1964, seeks to restore ties with other Christians, rather than waiting for them to return to Catholicism. It is a document that admits to wrongdoing and calls for a change of heart. The document contains 24 articles within three chapters.

Suddenly Catholics began showing up in organizations that they never before dreamed of even entering. The Catholic clergy began to initiate ecumenical services in their parishes. Catholic women began to become members of organizations like the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC).

Honorary Life Member Claire Heron was national president of WICC from 2002 to 2005. It is now a tradition for the various denominations to come together to plan the World Day of Prayer which is held annually on the first Friday in March.

It has been a particular joy to coordinate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. In my part of Canada, it has been held in the New Brunswick Legislative Chamber. Invited to participate are representatives of those who serve women coming from violent relationships. Attending also are officials from the municipal, provincial and federal governments and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who serve as an honour guard. In this somber atmosphere, how uplifting it is to see the clergy of so many denominations. No one comes with an agenda to steal away the sheep belonging in another pasture. We are simply a group of Christians doing what we do best: *Love One Another!* †



For God and Canada

"DID YOU KNOW?" ...about Catholic Christian Outreach

Terri Scott, National Chairperson of Spiritual Development

Did you know that if you have young adults attending university, there is no need for them to forget or ignore their Catholic faith? Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) is an organization made up of students and lay missionaries. Emphasis is on renewal of our world by developing leaders and showing young students that Jesus Christ is indeed present.

Founded in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in 1988, after the local bishop approved this student movement dedicated to evangelization, CCO can now be found on several major campuses. It was established because of concern that university-aged young adults – "our future leaders, policy makers, and teachers" – were no longer practicing their faith.

Overseen by Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J., of Ottawa, Mgsr. Gregory Smith and six other board members, "CCO employs a multiplication model of ministry. Like

Jesus did, [CCO] invests spiritually in the lives of a few to the point where they in turn can invest in the lives of others. [CCO] proclaims Christ to the students, equips them to be mature Christians, then commissions them to proclaim to and equip others."

I was fortunate to have attended a few lectures at the University of Winnipeg during my student days (2005) and can attest to the sincerity of the students and goals they are setting. They hold potluck dinners and other fun and bonding events, lead prayerful lunch-hour rosaries and attend mass together.

Urge your university student to approach Catholic Christian Outreach. They will feel more at home with students of their own faith and will grow and mature as people of Christ. †