

## Two Cardinals Air Views:

# ONE MAINTAINS PAPACY TO REMAIN SUPREME OTHER DENIES "WINDS OF CHANGE" IN CHURCH

### Is this the road then to real Christian Unity?

The question of Christian unity, in view of the seemingly current movement toward reform in the Roman Catholic Church, seems to have been focused on the extent to which these will lead to real and definite religious freedom within the Roman fold. There seems to be a feeling that in the eagerness of the pontiff to display friendliness toward the leaders of other denominations there has been a change in the rigidity of the Vatican's stand for supremacy in the Christian world.

A careful search of pronouncements of an authoritative character on Rome's claim to be "the one true church" does not reveal any compromise or shift in this position, or indeed on any doctrine that is basic in Roman Catholic belief.

In recent days two Cardinals, who had attended the Council sittings in Rome, made pronouncements that indicated no change in the stand of their church in regard to unity and doctrine.

In his weekly article a few weeks ago in the *Toronto Telegram* Cardinal McGuigan of Toronto stressed the theme — "Accent Where We Agree — theology brings the faiths together". Though there might have been a warning in the opening paragraph when he stated, "the present-day Ecumenical attitude of Christians has not been due to softness of heart, but attention to hard theological facts", but there were undoubtedly in the preamble statements to which all could agree. For instance:

"The traditional habit of fostering differences, of exaggerating our separation, apart from its manifest failure to advance God's cause, is untrue to reality itself."

"There is only one religion of Christianity. All Christians pray to one Father through His Son and the Spirit; all believe that the Son became man to save us from our sins and that there is no other name under heaven whereby we can be saved."

"We must believe that God can work the miracle to end schism itself, and bring to an end the visible disunity amongst all Christians." "And when reunion comes nothing shall be lost of the good things that have flourished in all the churches under the watchful eye of God" . . . "All Christian churches are bound to present the Christian message and all the fulness that is known to them."

As we say, there is nothing in these statements (and in many more) to which any member of a Protestant church could take exception. There is hope in these expressions that to the Roman Church unity would not be a one-way affair, — until we came to the last two paragraphs, when the Cardinal came to deal with dogma as follows:

"As to dogma, certainly no (Roman) Catholic can deny or pretend to deny the claims of the Papacy."

"But there is such organic unity between all the doctrines of the (Roman) Catholic faith that when the Papacy is seen better in the richer setting of a church which is the mother of all Christians, when the growing realization of the role of the bishops as the divinely appointed successors of the Apostles leads to further decentralization, the infallibility and universal jurisdiction of the Pope may be seen in a new light, even by those at present most bitterly antagonistic towards the very idea of the Papacy."

After digesting the import of this statement and its implicit denial of any change in the position, power and influence of the Papacy no matter what advance is made

The King's Highway

Members of the Reformed Baptist Church  
and  
All Loyal Friends of Bethany Bible College  
are requested to observe

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

as a

Day of Prayer

for the

Bethany Relocation Plan

Pray that an Army of Consecrated People  
may . . .

Rally in a Supreme and United Effort to . . .

Accept the Challenging Opportunity to  
Train . . .

Youth of Our Church on Constituency.

toward Christian unity, we pass on to what Cardinal Spellman of New York has to say about the changes that are claimed to be taking place in his church.

In the front page of "The Dominion", the daily newspaper in Wellington, New Zealand, issue of Dec. 20, airmailed to us, an account is given of an interview the Cardinal gave during a stop at the City's airport on his way to an Antarctic visit. It was cryptic, but abundantly clear on the essentials. It went thus:

**Reporter:** Are the winds of change sweeping through the Roman Catholic Church?

**Cardinal:** I do not think so.

**Reporter:** Is the Church's rigid pyramid structure of Pope, priests and laymen changing in answer to Pope Paul's call, "Now is the hour of the laity"?

**Cardinal:** I do not think so.

**Reporter:** Will the ecumenical spirit, which is increasing in strength, bring greater peace to the world?

**Cardinal:** I don't know. Anyway, peace was the main aim of the Christian churches long before any ecumenical move."

We leave this to the serious study of our readers. What has to be decided is whether the friendly gestures or approaches to Christian unity by the Church of Rome are sincere and subject to compromise on conflicting beliefs, or are the signs of goodwill from the Vatican merely a probationary exercise during which other denominations will be taught as in a Kindergarten why the Papacy must stand where it always has, so as to prepare the way for their general reception into the fold on Rome's own conditions. It is as clear as that. And the time to think seriously about it is NOW.

—The Sentinel