

# Kírie Eléison

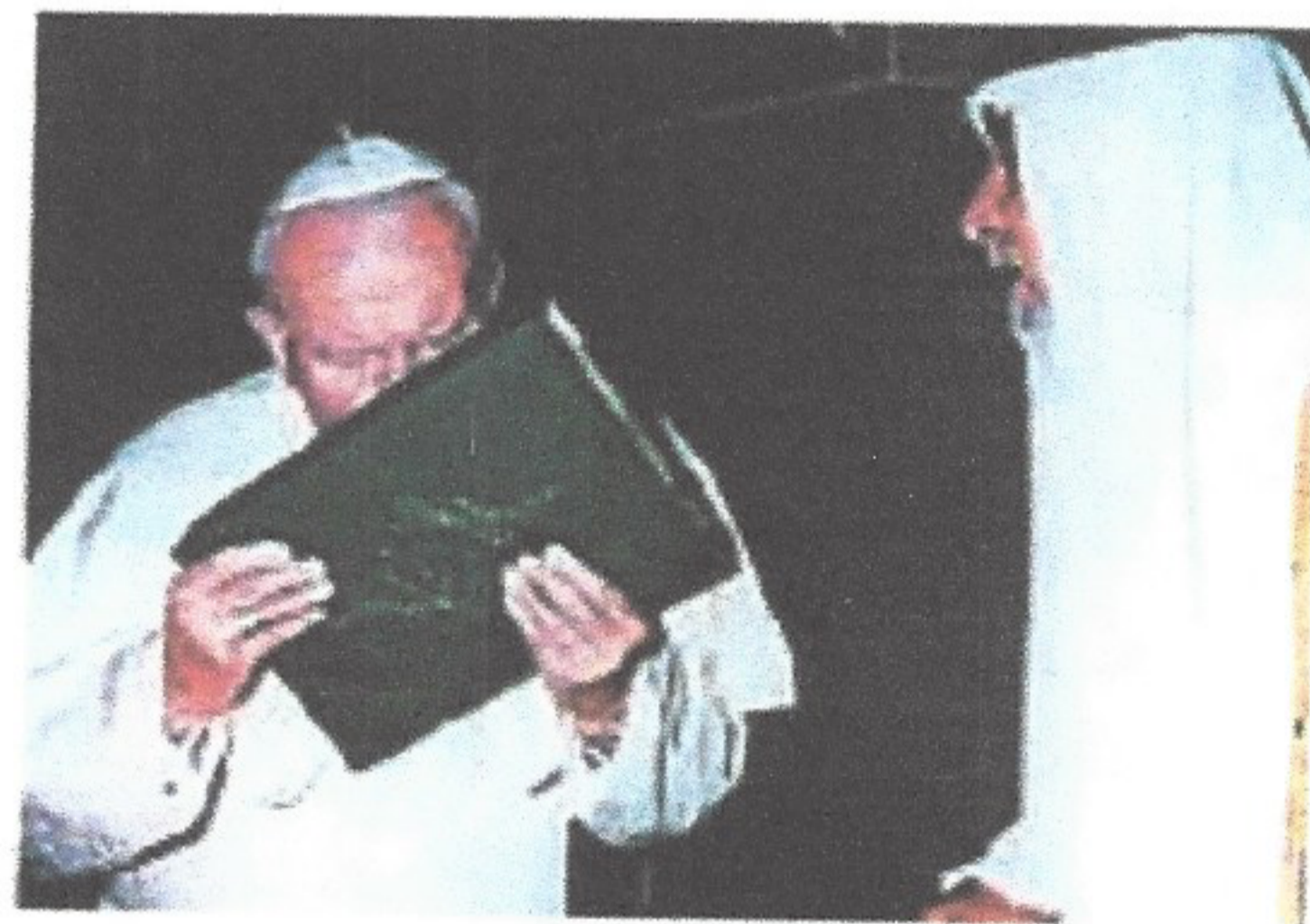
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## Pope John Paul II's Rush to Ecumenism Embraces Much, Corrects Nothing

It was fascinating to watch Pope John Paul II's performance at the Christmas Eve mass 2003 in the shadow of Saint Peter's Basilica. To be among those in the room to see him in person was indeed moving. In watching him, it was impossible not to want to turn back the calendar twenty-five years and see the man he was, not the man he is now – to have seen him vibrant and standing, not sitting, speaking with force and strength, not aged slurs.

But even his detractors must note that if his limbs are weak, his heart is still strong. For all of that, is it too bad that he had embraced the ecumenical movement in hopes of bringing the "lost" into the fold. On this Midnight Christmas Mass at Saint Peters on December 24, 2003, Pope John Paul didn't have a Buddha on the altar as he had done earlier. Nor did he kiss the Koran as he did at the altar of Saint Francis of Assisi.



*Pope John Paul II kissing the Koran*

No Buddha on the altar, but he had children from several countries – were they Christians? Some of the service was in Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese. There were Filipinos, and the children were in various native dress. If the Catholic Church is embracing all religions – they are wrong, because there is only one religion: the one that Jesus Christ set up on Pentecost in 33 A.D.

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Were these children a representation of conversion to Christianity or were they an embrace of various religions in the “hope of conversion”?

The Orthodox Church is the only one still following what Jesus established 2,000 years ago – and few are going back to Orthodoxy. If anything, people are embracing everything – Hindu, Buddhist, Moslem – and that’s wrong.

Still, the Pope embraces all religions in an effort to bring them back into the fold. He is doing this instead of correcting them and telling them that the only way they can enter in is through Jesus Christ – even as He directed His disciples in 33 A.D. on that Pentecost. Instead, Pope John Paul II feels he can, perhaps by his own sheer will, change what others believe.

### **Ecumenism is Not Unity**

Ecumenism is not unity. Unity’s head is Jesus Christ and happens by the Holy Spirit. Ecumenism is man made.

And what do they believe? After participating in that moving Midnight Mass, several people – lay people – were asked their opinions about the Pontiff and his Ecumenical Movement.

We waited three hours to get into Saint Peter’s Basilica. Standing in line. The Mass was performed by Pope John Paul II.

We got there before 8 p.m., and there were already several hundred people in line to get in. The first person – a woman from India, and there is no way of telling whether the woman was a Christian or not – we talked with and stood next to asked if we had any extra tickets to get in.

We had been told that we had to get the tickets in advance; you have to send in a letter requesting them, then go the Bronze Door and pick them up. The woman asked for ours and I said no, that if I gave her ours, we wouldn’t be able to get in. They had not gotten tickets, so they expected us to give them ours. We moved away from them.

### **Parable of Ten Virgins**

That prompted the thought about the Parable of the Ten Virgins – five with oil and five without. That is like the End Times as well. There will be those who are prepared and those who are not. And then there will be those who don’t have who will come to those who do and will demand of them. In the Parable, the five virgins ask for the oil, hoping those who have it will give it to them.

Having them demand the tickets made me uncomfortable. But perhaps it was done so we would be prepared for some End Times event. We did get seated ... after our three-hour wait in line.

Standing in line was a group of guys and their wives. I assume they were from the Citadel, because I heard them mention South Carolina and I noticed they all had short haircuts. That made me assume they were in the military and the Citadel is located there. One of the guys was obviously the leader. He talked and

talked and talked. And they hung on his every word. In fact he had been talking long before we showed up ... and he held court the entire three hours we stood there.

While we were standing there, one woman from Denmark left because she found out you from a woman from Canada that you had to have a ticket to get in and she didn't have one. And she wasn't going to stand around waiting, so she left and we started talking with the woman from Canada.



*Pope at Assisi with statue of Buddha on top of the tabernacle*

There was a tall guy standing with the woman from Canada. He also had a friend, a nun from Pakistan, who was standing there. He was tall enough he could see the guards and could tell us how many there were. In fact, as we were starting to press forward, he became concerned and shouted for people to, "Take it easy. Take it easy."

There was also a group from Mexico singing Felice Navidad.

We saw a lot of nuns wearing the same white and blue habit as Mother Theresa from Calcutta, India. Those we saw in line took Holy Communion.

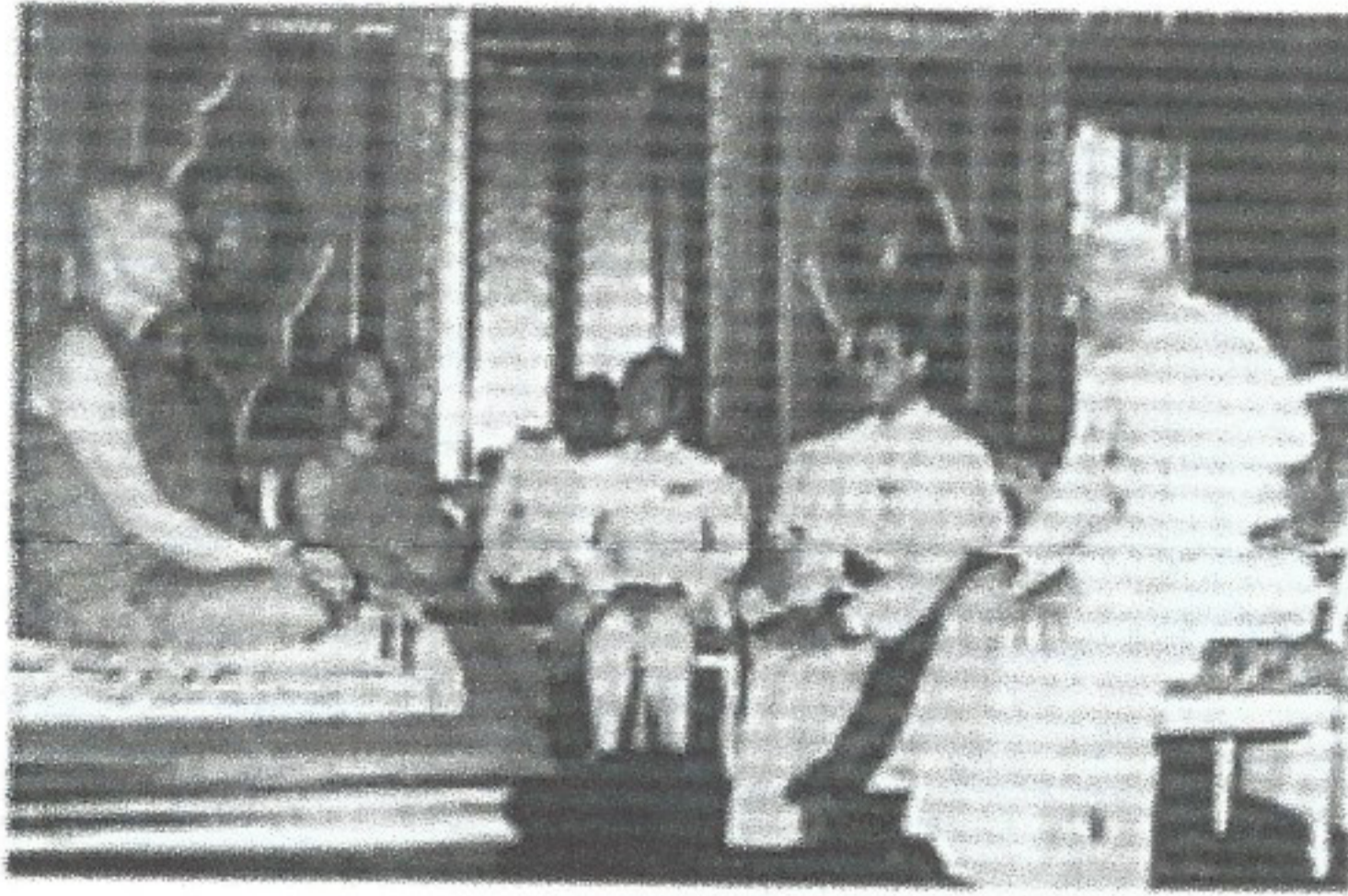
After we made a mad dash to get into Saint Peter's, we were seated beside a woman, Maureen, and her son, Mike. Both of them took communion. In front of us was an Italian family – a father, mother and two daughters. (We saw the mother and one of the daughters the next day as we window shopped around Rome.) The younger daughter fell asleep on the mother's lap and shoulder, then eventually woke up.

We were just two rows back from Italian TV, or maybe Vatican TV, filming the entire event and transmitting it worldwide – live.

We saw an Orthodox bishop who was seated several rows in front of us. He was wearing the bishop's miter.

We have a copy of the Midnight Mass that was spoken. They followed that to the letter. When the Pope arrived, there was applause, because until he arrived nobody knew for sure he would be performing the Mass. When he left, the applause was tumultuous. It must have taken a lot out of him to be there – and even more to be there and give a blessing on Christmas Day at the Vatican, which he did. But we agreed that he had to be there, in order to show everybody of Catholic faith that he was strong enough to be there.

He sat the entire time – on a motorized cart that moves him around. His voice wasn't strong, but we didn't expect it to be, having heard him speak recently at several events.



*Buddhist patriarch gives audience to Pope John Paul II*

We sat in the twentieth row. The center aisle was blocked off for dignitaries and for the movement of those participating in the service. We could only come down to our seats in single-file. At first, Saint Peter's Basilica was half-lit, then they turned up the lights, so everybody's video cameras and other cameras would be able to capture the event.



*Pope John Paul II being anointed by Hindu priestess with the pagan "Sign of the Tilak"*

The Mass since Vatican II, or perhaps for this event, or both, was shortened and hardly recognizable to those who remember the Mass before Vatican II.

The communion was a wafer and no wine was given to those in line. I know in the Gospels, Holy Communion given

to the Body of Christ was bread and wine changes into our Lord's Body and Blood. Is this change for the sake of ecumenism? Is it so more people can come to communion? Once again, if we alter what Jesus has commanded us to do for the sake of others, we will be held accountable.

I noticed one man take the wafer – when they offered communion right in front of us, near the platform for the TV camera – and he took it without putting it in his mouth and the man who was in charge of the area where we were motioned for him to take in his mouth and consume it. The man didn't argue. He simply put it in his mouth, turned, then disappeared from my view. The man may have wanted the wafer as a souvenir from the Vatican, or he may have had other less honorable plans for it. Or he took it that way in his church.

I don't think we should change the Mass to accommodate ecumenism. I think it should have stayed the same, then let the Holy Spirit reveal the truth up to us. I pray that the Lord returns more quickly. Mike, who sat next to us, I don't want even those like him to be deceived. You can't expect the Lord to bless something when it becomes more displeasing to Him because man has changed it.

#### **The Mass is so Empty**

The Mass to me was so empty. That's why I paid attention to it so closely – so I could tell how different it had become. That's why I sat during the Mass as a silent witness. I am not in an agreement with the Ecumenical Movement at all. The more we got into the Mass, the more I was disheartened by the changes that have been made even in my lifetime.

I shared the binoculars with Mike and his mother. Then I helped her with her books. But because I sat the entire Mass, her entire countenance toward me changed. I felt like that would be a reaction I would get from my mother if she had been there and didn't know me.

Man must accommodate the Lord, the Lord should not have to accommodate man.

When we had the exchange – handshakes – at that part of the service, the people behind me shook my hand, but I felt like he did not want to. So, really is this ecumenical movement just a façade and not really the bond of unity that Jesus prayed for on earth?

I was thinking too, at the End Times, the True Church for standing firm will get a strong persecution from the Church that thinks they are the Church. The person who responded and was watching me very closely was Michael. I got an entirely different feeling from him than I received from his mother. She did not offer to shake my hand, but Michael did.

He also watched me on my way out and a nun got separated from the group she was with. Michael saw me tap on her shoulder to pass and to help her catch up with her group. Michael was standing right there and didn't see me watch him turn around and look. I think there was a wondering in his heart because he saw me following the Mass, but I'm sure he didn't know why I didn't stand. He was probably questioning it in his heart, but he was more open than his mother.

#### **On the Borderline**

It is people like Michael who are on the borderline, who I would like to reach

before they go into total apostasy by embracing something foreign to our Lord for the sake of ecumenism. That's why I'd like the Lord to come back. The world will never fill the Wedding Feast seats.

Standing in line? Will that be like it will be going into the Wedding Feast?

We stood for three hours, then they let us in, and we were actually running to get to the stairs to go into Saint Peters Basilica. People were running to get a better seat. To get ahead of others, even though they were certain to have a good seat – to have a seat at the Midnight Mass. That won't be part of that at the Wedding Feast because the seats will all be assigned. And there will be order. In the Lord's Kingdom, there is order. In man's kingdom order can become chaotic.



#### **John Paul II with the World Council of Churches**

Orthodox, Swiss Reformed, "Catholic",  
Lutheran, Methodist

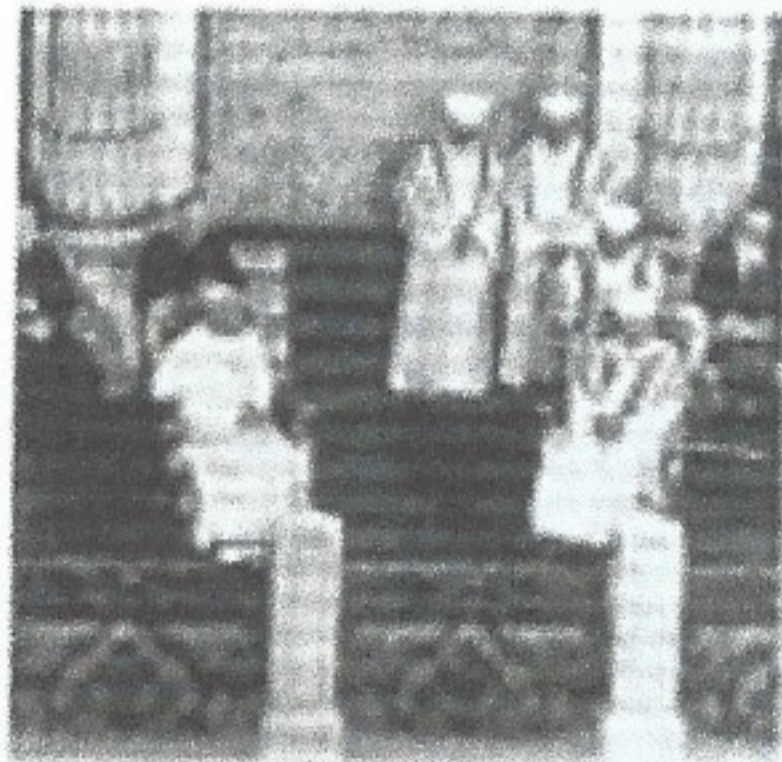
We were actually running like others. I saw one woman fall down on the steps. And she got up and started running again. Then when we got to the top of the stairs, we had to stand in another line and show our passes before we could get in.

I heard someone say there were 8,000 seats inside and 4,000 more outside.

Later, we also heard that they gave out some tickets, so the seats would all be filled. But when I made it out to visit the rest room, I saw them routing hundreds of people out past where we were into an outside facility.

It was cold and I assume there was a TV or some sort of device where they could watch the Mass. Before I left, I talked with a guard to make sure I'd be able to get back in because I saw where they were sending people who did not have tickets.

There were also people watching the screen from the middle of Saint Peters Basilica. Some people got in line, even though they already had tickets. Then they asked for two more tickets and they gave them to their friends.



*Pope John Paul II and Moslem leaders*

We talked with the woman at the front desk of our hotel if she had been to a Mass and she said never. And she's lived here all her life. She has never been to the Vatican, never seen the Pope and considers herself a "good Catholic". And it's only a ten-minute walk from the hotel to the Vatican. Her reason for not attending? She has to work. I guess you can come up with an excuse for everything.

I talked with the other clerk at the hotel about the Pope and Midnight Mass, etc. He said he is Catholic but doesn't attend

mass there because he lives too far away. He did watch it on Italian TV.



*Pope John Paul II at Jewish Synagogue*

The Japanese people that we met on our visit to Saint Peters Basilica were very nice people. But probably Buddhist. They certainly were not Christian. Saint Peters to them is just a "nice place to visit," another box to check in the places they have seen. So going to the Vatican meant nothing to them. So when we went in for the tour, they went to the bar and had drinks. Their excuse was – they had already seen it.

On the mid-day of December 25, 2003, we went back to Saint Peters to take pictures and to take a horse-drawn carriage ride. While we were there, we heard the Pope's voice and thought it was a recording from the night before. We found it was actually the Pope giving a blessing on Christmas Day.

We talked with a family. The son, John, is from Rhoxle Island and his parents are from California. The son works within the Catholic Church. He didn't say doing what. Another son, no name, was the mother's son and John's brother, had been ordained at the Vatican several years before. John had apparently been here several times.

We raised the subject as we were sitting next to them in a restaurant on our walk back from the Vatican. Their take on the ecumenical movement is to embrace other religions in order to get them converted. All three were at the Midnight Mass, although they weren't sitting together – the mother had been standing with a group of nuns and walked right in. She didn't even have to show her pass. Her husband and son were standing out further because they saw Pope John Paul II several times – when he entered and when he exited.

Their son said that the boys and girls dressed in their international dress, went up to the Pope, thought they were in fact Christians representing other countries. He didn't think that was part of the ecumenical movement. But to me it brought questions about embracing other nations' faiths, which I am not about to do.

#### **Missing the Latin Mass**

We told them we missed when the Latin Mass was spoken. They seemed to equate it that that's just the way it is. We pointed out that as an Orthodox, the Pope is one of the five Patriarchs. John, who spoke the most, didn't have anything to say about that.

The mother, who was a Lutheran, is now embracing Catholicism as a convert. The father didn't say much at all. The son, John, knew about the tomb of Saint Peter and that it's Byzantine and Orthodox. He also talked about the relic of the head of Saint Andrew, which was donated by the Orthodox to the Vatican. John equated the ecumenical movement as a separate entity, almost as though it had been compartmentalized into a

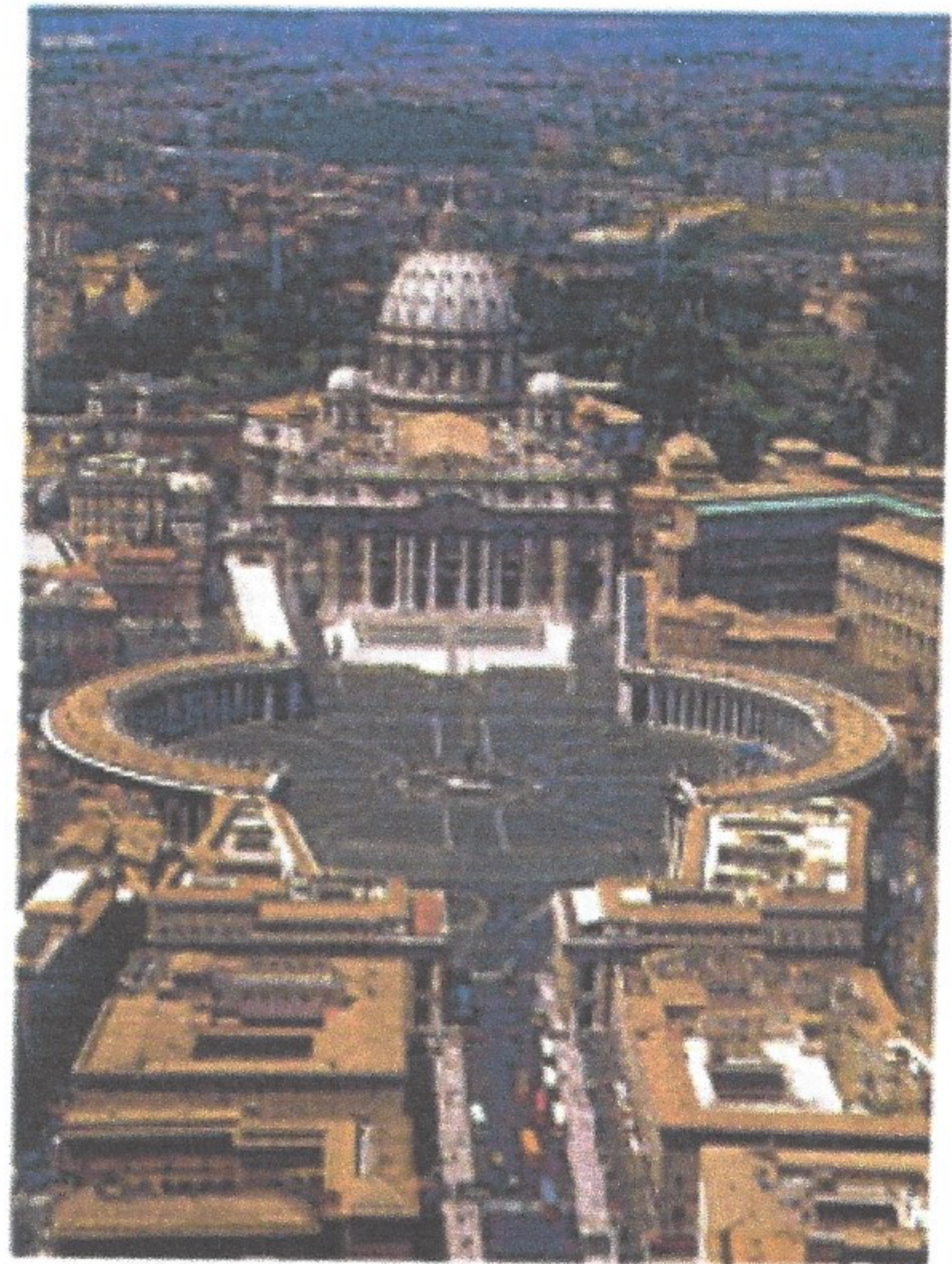
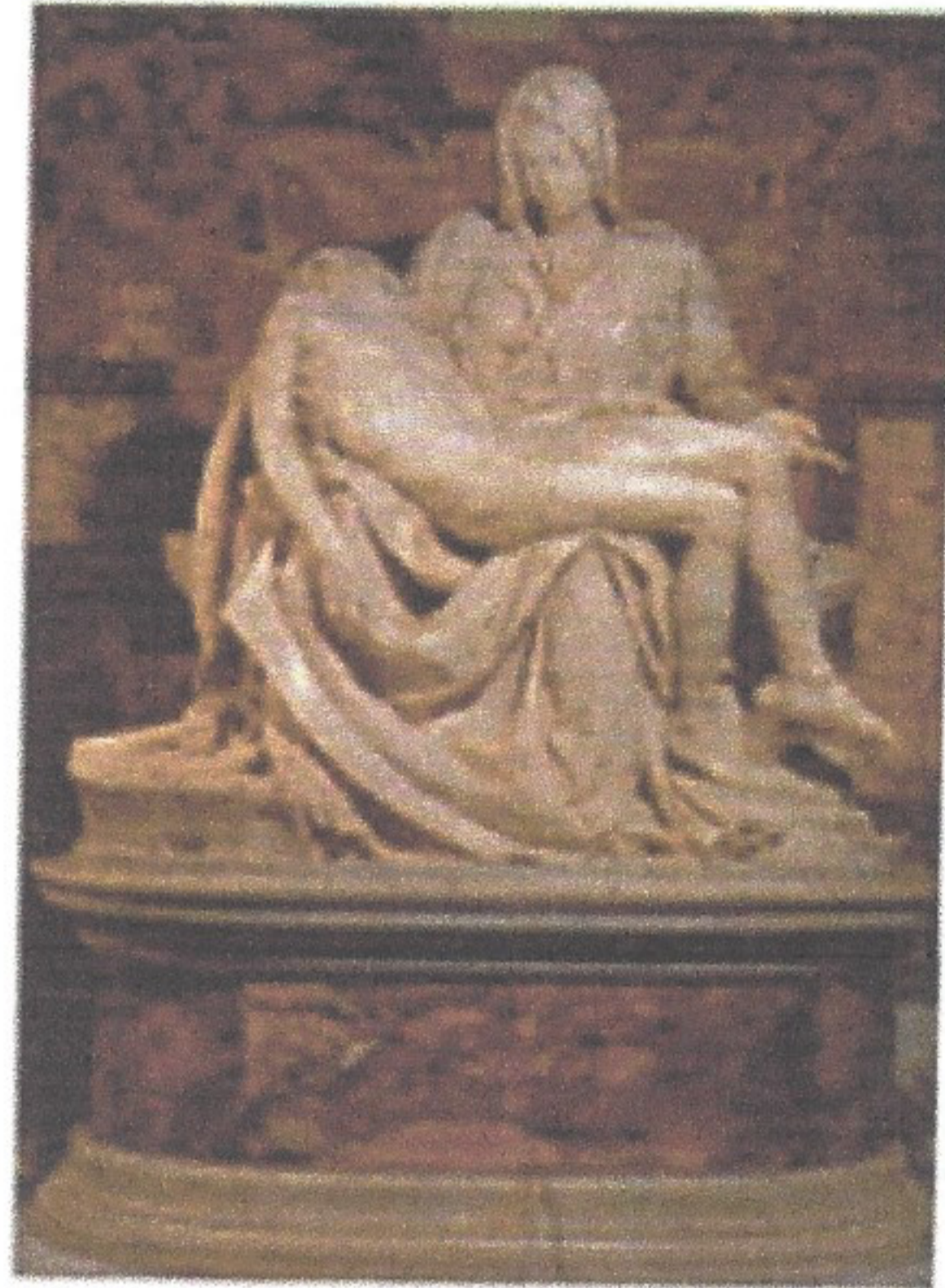
separate ministry of the Catholic Church. It is as though he sees the ecumenical movement is quite different from the religious mass celebrated. He considers it a movement to bring people into the church. He didn't see it as I see it – the ecumenical movement, the church, the faith – all one.



We told them that we're from St. Michael Orthodox Church, which provides Orthodoxy for converts, and that it's very difficult to convert Orthodox Christians in a protestant nation. To that, the mother responded, "Being a Catholic is a little easier, because us Catholics are more open." The implication is that Orthodoxy is not open to evangelism – not the way Catholicism is. This is true because we hold fast to the traditions of Christ.

While we were talking, I mentioned that we had gone to Fatima and talked about the prophecy spoken by Lucia and the other two small shepherds that was given to them by the Blessed Mother was that in the End Times satan will be in the hierarch of the Church. That's when the father spoke up and said, "They already are there."

I didn't want the mother to think I was one of those misguided believers who thinks the Pope is the anti-christ. So I reiterated that the Mass was very nice. I didn't want her to misinterpret my words. I know that she must have taken it that way because when she left, she said good bye to me.





# Hierarchy of Holy Synod of Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Exile Examines Stands on Ecumenism By Other Hierarchical Jurisdictions

*The following has been examined and released for publication by the Primate of the Holy Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Autocephalous Church in Exile.*

It is obvious that on examination, the article, "Ecumenism Versus Unity" expresses the Synod's precise position and opinions regarding this issue. But we also examined other publications that discussed this topic, and our remarks are based on those words being accurate.

It must be clear that, on every Divine Liturgy upon our holy altar at the chapel of St. Michael Orthodox Church, Ukrainian Orthodox Jurisdiction, Greek Pan Orthodox Jurisdiction, we have in place two precious icons blessed by Alexy II himself, Patriarch of all Russia.

## **Two Icons from Russia**

One is the Blessed Mother, the other, Our Christ God. Both are Orthodox icons that we hold high, very valuable and extremely dear to our hearts. They were given to us in Malta on October 24, 2001 by Dame Irina Malikova, a most precious Russian Dame of the O.B.S.S. (Byzantine Order of the Holy Sepulchre), and a friend of the Patriarch. The icons were presented at the investiture as a knight, His Beatitude Metropolitan Haralambos, O.B.S.S.

The Holy Synod went on record in an attempt to close the breach that exists between the Russian Orthodox Patriarchate of Moscow, Russia and the Ukrainian National Orthodox Church in Kiev. With this Holy Synod being in exile and enjoying an autocephalous position by Tomos in 1921, we believed it was our

Christian Orthodox responsibility to mend any indifference between jurisdictions,

including our own. This now is especially important since the break up of the Soviet Union and each took its individual, national status – Russia, Ukraine, Belarus.

It is also important to point out there was a meeting with Russian Ambassador Dr. Sergey S. Zotov, Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Malta and the Metropolitan. The ambassador, in his private Embassy chambers, told us a beautiful story about his regeneration into Orthodoxy, along with his best friend, President Vladimir Putin, and their dedication, support and allegiance to the Russian Orthodox Church.

He spoke of a devout experience where, upon his orders, many were personally saved in the Balkans on one of his assigned roles by the Russian government. It was at this time he came in direct contact with a lost and venerable icon – Our Lady of Philermous, which is also called the Faceless Icon of the Blessed Mother. He conveyed to us a beautiful gift – a limited copy of that icon.

## **Putin is Devout Russian Orthodox**

His Excellency, the Ambassador, made it very clear that President Putin is a devout believing and practicing Russian Christian Orthodox. The Ambassador personally planned safe passage, invited us to Russia and requested our presence as the Hierarchical representative of the Ukrainian Church in Exile. Because of the anthrax attack at the time, we were prevented from going. There were also threats upon the life of Alexy II, who reportedly was swooped to Switzerland. This information was conveyed to him by Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, who is the Russian chairman of the department of external church relations of the Moscow Patriarchate. After prayer and

prudence, we decided to postpone our trip to Moscow.

Archbishop Haralambos was told by Elizabeth Steward, a devout Russian supporter who has visited St. Michael Orthodox Church several times, "Whether you like it or not, your Beatitude, Metropolitan, you have been placed in the international limelight and have responsible duties to perform to mend deep-seeded gaps in Orthodoxy between the Russia, Ukraine, Belarus" states.

#### **Commentary on Article from Pravda**

In an article written by Yelena Shakhova that appeared in Pravda, she had some interesting observations about the Russian Orthodox Church opening its door to ecumenism. Regarding her remarks about President Vladimir Putin, it is important to note that Pope John Paul II's visit to the Ukraine – now a separate state from Russia – created chaos; his mass held outside Kiev was boycotted.

The National Ukrainian fervor suspected catholic inroads from the Vatican to regain territories and properties lost during the beginning of Communism. His Holiness Pope John Paul II's insisted to visit, as well as by the Vatican Curia. His true agenda is known only in his heart.

ROCA (Russian Orthodox Church Abroad), which split at the beginning of the Russian revolution in 1920 has no reason at this time to decline any reunification with its Mother Church. However, due to the extreme conservatism of ROCA and the United States, this may take time. ROCA has always denounced ecumenism as heresy.

The power structure and responsibility of the Patriarchate of Moscow, however, has always maintained distance and independency from all Patriarchates, including Constantinople, due to divisionary actions of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, over its jurisdictional takeovers.

It is this Holy Synod's ecclesiastical opinion that it would have been better if the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople mended the schism and helped restore Estonia to Moscow. We have stated in writing to His Holiness Alexy II of Russia our position in this matter. Our Holy Synod is represented by five archbishops and bishops, with three vacant seats to be filled. We believe that we can play the extremely important role of a unifier between the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, all Ukrainian jurisdictions, and the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). We are in communion with many and we feel a devout responsibility – with the help of God and the Holy Spirit – to perform this already openly declared agenda. We do not call this ecumenism. We call this unity in the Orthodox faith.

Regarding ecumenism as it applies to the Anglican Episcopal Church of England, we welcome communion. However, we will support all efforts to abandon any ecumenism with the United States Episcopal Church especially in regards to its consecration of an openly gay bishop – Bishop Robinson.

The spiritual desire of our Holy Synod's heart would be that the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams would submit to the influence of Holy Spirit who speaks to the rest of us in unity. Our hope would be that he would remove the scandal among the world's Episcopalians and publicly renounce the ordination of practicing homosexuals in the Anglican Communion.

#### **Third Secret of Fatima**

Truly, this is the Third Secret of Fatima – the intrusion of the Holy Christian Church and its apostolicity would receive into its fold satanic influence. Heretics, calling themselves Christians, should not be included in any ecumenical dialogue with any right thinking Orthodoxy (true doctrine believing Christianity).

# Ecumenism versus Unity

*An interview with Archbishop Haralambos  
+Metropolitan Archbishop Haralambos, Primate of  
the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Autocephalus Church in Exile  
Grand Prior and Chevalier of the Byzantine Order of Holy Sepulchre (O.B.S.S.)  
Orthodox Priory in America*

## **Is ecumenism headed in the right direction?**

You must understand first of all that the ecumenism that exists today is manmade and man-oriented and it is designed in order to accommodate every type of religious spiritual experience or doctrine and different faiths.

## **What's wrong with that?**

It smacks of 'anything goes, as long as you believe there's a God'. We know in the world there are many and multiple gods that impersonates the real God. That is not a true Christian doctrine, as it exists with Christ. The real ecumenism, which is a spiritually oriented can be defined by reading the Gospel of John whereby the Lord Himself prayed for a unity.

Ecumenism really is a man-made word that covers all aspects of common ground and common bonds between faiths. The Lord's faith simply for the one single faith, and I'm sure He knew at that time different religions – Shintuism, ancient Chinese spiritual religions existed – but He spoke only of the One Faith He was establishing. That was the One Holy, True, Apostolic and Universal Church. Later that was called the Christian Historic Church. He prayed for unity. "I in thee and thee in you." It was His fervent prayer and one of the few times He actually prayed to the Powers of the Throne in Heaven,

when He asked for unity, because that is the only means of salvation. There is no salvation outside of Christ.

He even made reference to Judaism in His book of Revelation. He spoke of the Jews having synagogues, but that they really are synagogues of satan. That's because anything outside of Christ, as far as I'm concerned, is satanic.



Ecumenism, as we talk about it today, is a man-made device that attempts to pacify and embrace all religions, to quiet the storm. The question should be, is there any saving faith that's outside of Christ? If you are really a true Christian, you don't believe there is.

**Some argue that ecumenism is to expose all other religions to Christianity and let them decide.**

**What is your reaction to that?**

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Why would you expose a family member or a loved one to apostasy?

Why even tempt them? Isn't it better to know the truth first? Then you could use that as a measuring rod to see if other faiths even measure up to it. What Christ said was, 'No one can come to me unless they are drawn by the Father.'

So, if it is the movement of the Holy Spirit to expose people so they can understand it because they know their spirit will choose it or that they have need to choose it or their spirits are receptive to choosing it, then it's the work of the Holy Spirit. If it's man-made, that means you're trying to make Christianity academic and it's not. It's not based on knowledge. It's based on whether the spirit is even receptive.

**What about reports that John Paul II kissed the Koran and had a statue of Buddha on the altar at St. Peters?**

I can't believe he did that without the support and encouragement of the Curia. If he is just showing Christian love to the faiths that are outside Christianity by doing this, then that's fine. But if he placed them on the altar, it could have just been a human error. I don't want to condemn the man, there are two ways of expressing Christianity.

One is to show open arms in the spirit of love and another is when you are trying to indoctrinate and teach, which cannot contain error. We cannot find ourselves put where, in the words of St. Paul ring clear and loud and some brethren are enemies of the Work of the Cross.



The Work of the Cross is very simple, it's not complicated and it cannot be contaminated. If it is a show of love, then you cannot condemn any action on the part of the Pope or the Curia or the Vatican. But if it is intended to share with them their apostasy – and that's the key, if – mixing it becomes a god mix, then that's a violation of the doctrine and becomes an extremely volatile problem with the church.

That's because Christ Himself said, 'How can two walk together without being in agreement?' And if it is an attempt to walk with an agreement, it is wrong. If it happens and the fruit is that they do walk with us in agreement – that is that they agree in Christ – then they can become brothers in Christ. The Body of Christ is pretty simple – it's unity. And Christ paid that unity and it's not exclusive to Christianity – it's due anyone that the Holy Spirit works with and the Father draws to bring in that person.

If it is done in the spirit of edification, it's okay. But you can't correct somebody who already believes a different way and has a different doctrine. That's why we call it heresy. The first Church fought diligently and practiced due diligence and especially the first Six Councils – up to the Council

of Nicea. When they developed the Nicene Creed, it is pretty clear what is expected of us and what we are as Christians. And in no manner should we ever indoctrinate ourselves and share apostasy for any sake – for love or any reason. That would cause us to become betrayers of Christ. Christ said it Himself when those who walked away from Him when they said they didn't understand His communion Commandment of Eat My Body and Drink My Blood and they walked no more with Him. In Scripture, He named them as betrayers.

Is it not a betrayal on our part if we walk no more in His Truth by trying to embrace outside faiths? What are we after? Numbers? Of course not. Christ Himself said there will be very few who walk in. The gates are narrow and few will walk in. We already know it's a remnant, so why incorporate all the faiths of the world, because we know that God created all of us. Of course He created all of us, but that doesn't mean all of are going to be rescued out of the morass of lies and untruths that have been perpetrated by the Lord God's arch-enemy, Lucifer. It's Lucifer who is promoting this ecumenism today as we know it because it doesn't require the true diligence of true Christianity.

**What are your thoughts on the position of the Russian Orthodox Church about what the Pope and the Catholic Church is doing?**

They think Pope John Paul II is wrong because he is trying to capitalize and the Roman Catholic Church is trying to regain some of its properties in the Ukraine, for instance. So, when he visited, it was a very negative response that came out of the people. They did

not want him there. Despite advice, he went there anyway, and he really created a negative response from the people. In fact, it was Rome's intention to unify the Uniates, who are Orthodox who look to Rome as their Patriarchate. He went there to solidify that particular segment of Catholicism and it backfired on him. I think he intended well, and spiritually oriented.

**Where should the focus be, instead?**

I think he should be practicing his efforts and the Vatican should be focusing their efforts on the Protestants. That's where the real, terrible schism has come.

These other faiths never were Christian. The Protestants, out of the 1500s, left the true Church. I think the Pope and Roman Catholicism should try to nurture them back in. That's the schism and the development of this terrible apostasy that exists today in churches that call themselves Christians. And they emanated from the Roman Catholic Church.

That is the first joint – or arm or leg – that should come back. Forget about Buddhists and others. That's where the concentration in prayer should be. Then the next step, obviously, would be for the Orthodox and Catholicism to unite as they divided in 1054. Then you would have Christianity back together again in one piece – also one peace. If they united, they would be Orthodox. Orthodoxy comes from the two words "true doctrine".

Pope John Paul II is trying to get some unity with the Orthodox Church and he has been denied that because as his first step he should be bringing in the Protestants and then come to the

Orthodox. He is trying to jump start – skip over basically – the worst schism that ever existed in the history of Christianity, which occurred in Europe when they broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. That's why you have this huge apostasy in America. You have – at last count 25,000 – different Christian faiths today. They came into existence out of the Catholic Church, not Orthodoxy.

God preserved the Orthodox Church as an anchor. Division of Christianity was never intended by the Lord to accommodate different approaches to the One Faith. It is like a divided family. And we know where division comes from. It comes straight from Hell. And satan has been in the business of dividing and conquering for quite awhile.

And the Lord foresaw all that and said in Revelation. The problem is that nobody wants to acknowledge that you can't have an anything goes Christianity. It's pretty strict. And that's why the Lord said the Jews have a synagogue, but that it's of satan. It's not even of Him.

That's why Judaism today isn't really Judaism. If you will, it's an apostasy of Judaism. It has gone off the deep end. The Jews today don't practiced true Judaism. You have Reformed Jews. You have Conservatives. Even in Israel they are not accepted as Jews. So why in the world should we Christians accept them?

So, if you do interview a rabbi, he may tell you some things. But he's not even true to his own faith. Wearing a yarmulke and a talus and singing the shamaa doesn't make him a Messianic

Jew. What it does is make him a cultural Jew. They want to make sure they are known as Jews, so they have drawn certain rubrics and they use certain traditions such as the Passover to desperately hang on to their identity. But a true Jew is a Messianic Jew that believes in a Messiah. The fact that they rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah only means that they aren't on-target.

The Orthodox Jew is the closest thing to a Judaic. But even they are not fashioned after the historic Jew of Christ's time and what He was up against when He visited synagogues. Yes, words spoken by most theologians is that Christianity is based on Judaism. Christ was a Jew. Yes, He was. The Lord had no problem with any identity crisis about being a Jew. The first Christians of course were Greek-speaking Jews. And the synagogues of Greece and where St. Paul went and converted them, they accepted the Messiah.

In the Lord's reference to His return is that His original Church's Disciples, Apostles, will rule the 12 tribes of Israel, who in turn will rule the world. The seat of the benevolent dictatorship of Jesus Christ will be in Jerusalem and it will be Jewish. However, it will of course embrace Christianity in all forms of scripture.

#### **Where is ecumenism rearing its ugly head?**

*(Andrew speaking)*

He has been "around the block" a few times regarding Christianity. He was a baptized Greek Orthodox, as an altar boy through adulthood, but spent some time as a Baptist. When there is a splinter in the Church like there was hundreds of

years ago, heresy began creeping into the doctrine. That's one of the important reasons for having only one church that believes in Jesus Christ – to not allow heresy to creep in. When it starts splitting off, you get traditions and different beliefs, and then before you know it, you're calling yourself a Christian, but you are going in different directions.

Christ Himself set down some basic commandments to keep and that was the importance of Christianity – to keep His commandments and to keep the traditions He taught His followers. The reason for religion is to keep the commandments and the traditions pure and the motives pure and the Body of Christ pure and everyone heading in the same direction and you don't have your body going in one direction, your heart going in another and your head going in a third direction.



#### **What is your response to what Andrew just said?**

What he is really saying is that the commandments – the Sacraments – which is why the original Apostolic Church must maintain, first its apostolicity – forget Judaism, forget Buddhism. They aren't even in the same ballpark playing the same game. It begins with the Apostolicity that Christ established with His 12 Apostles. It was such an important act that even when Judas was eliminated after betraying Christ and committing suicide, they

didn't reduce the number of Apostles to 11. They brought in Mathias and prayed on that for him to be the 12<sup>th</sup>. Christ started initially with the 12 and that began the historic Christian Church, energized by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

The bottom line – unless there is an historic connection of apostolicity – hands laying on hands consecutively, then how can you show any kind of historic connection to the first church? Then it becomes a man-made item, generally energized beginning with they criticize, as with the Protestants who criticized the Catholics for having the rituals and traditions. In fact, they twist the truth, because they themselves are establishing a man-made faith, never mind what Christ started and called it His Church.

It says to be careful. Even when they picked the first deacons – the second generation of Apostles – they stipulated that one of the prerequisites was that they had to have a spirit-filled person – one whose heart was in the right place. Andrew said it pretty well when he said the heart can't go one direction, the head another, the feet another. The Body of Christ must move in unity. And nothing that is disunited can move in unity.

So, what good is ecumenism, or any ecumenical movement? If we are not moving in the same direction, it is not only a waste of time, it is confusing and at best a temporary fix to people who have a built-in failsafe system that God has established in each one of our hearts seeking Him. See, the human race cannot really live without a love and fulfillment of God.

**Andrew, you have been searching. You were born an Orthodox and moved away from that for personal reasons. Now you are moving back? Did all this turn you off on God or organized religions?**

Organized religions. I think it was the hypocrisy that turned me off. I'm not saying all of it is bad. Some of it is good. But sorting it out can be confusing. It can lose its spirituality it is filtered the way it is. That's because the message can become terribly diluted.

**A convert spoke about having been a Lutheran and that walking into an Orthodox Church was a natural progression back to God. Would you respond to that?**

The Lutheran Church is an offshoot of the Catholic Church. According to some of my research, the Pope back then made some deals and re-instituted the apostolic that the Catholics had, giving the Lutherans the semblance of Apostolic succession.



That's why they believe in the Chalice. They have distorted the mean of the Chalice, but then so have some Protestants who use grape juice and crackers and they don't consecrate. But the bottom line for Lutherans is that they

still maintain a semblance of an altar and they do recognize the priesthood because the Catholics didn't throw them out completely. I don't think the Catholics wanted to throw out Martin Luther. I think they wanted to reform him when he nailed the Bulls on the door and listed the ailments of the Catholic Church of his day.

They wanted to eliminate his criticism, so they gave him a hard row to go. I don't think Luther himself ever wanted to abandon the Catholic faith because it was the only one he knew existed.

The Protestants did indeed try to reunite themselves with the historic church by asking the Orthodox in the East to embrace and accept them. But they were rejected. The question then becomes – is the Lutheran Church today a part of the Catholic Church or is it a faith unto itself?

My personal complaint as a Metropolitan in the Orthodox Church is quite simple. I speak with the Spirit of Elijah when I say this, voluntarily, without a Hitler or a government, but out of their own free choice, the majority of Apostate Christianity today has voluntarily removed the altars, completely eliminated the priesthood and has accepted the satanic doctrine of Sola Scriptura (Scripture Only and forget the holy traditions of the Church, which wrote the Scriptures in the first place) and Sola Persona (which is a dangerous doctrine that says that individuality is all we need to have a personal relationship with the Lord.

And that's all based on a 20-second pop prayer that solves all the spiritual and the



growth problems involved in spiritual growth and life. By yourself that's all you need.

**Why is that wrong?**

That's wrong because the bottom line clearly is that you cannot reach pure salvation outside of the church. You must belong inside a church. Just like that cross you see there (he pointed to a large cross that he's building at the Holy Theotokos Cemetery in Jensen Beach, Florida, that will be used for baptisms and will be big enough for people to stand in it), you must be inside it.

You cannot be outside the church, even if you are turned off, you need to stay in there and perfect and use the spiritual bodies of edification. If you come outside of that – out on your own – that is precisely where satan wants you. The enemy has you thinking that all you need is to pray to Christ.

Now, that's not to say the Holy Spirit doesn't try to rescue you and bring you back in. But if all you are doing is listening to a voice by yourself, how do you know which one you are listening to? When we are inside that church, in a unifying manner, then God has us in His safety zone where He is able to talk to us through His five-fold ministry (Apostle, Prophet, Teacher, Preacher, Evangelist) and His Apostolicity, His Evangelical anointing and thereby keep you safe.

That's why He said when two or more are gathered, then I am in the midst. If it is Sola Persona, who is the other one? It's the devil. God doesn't want you there, by yourself. He wants you in the Church, and He's going to do all He can in a loving manner to get you back inside.

**Can we talk about the evils of ecumenism?**

Ecumenism is the negative side of unity. But it can be a good thing if ecumenism means unity. But you cannot have unity without the distortion of doctrine. When we talk of ecumenism, we say it is a result of humanity and love for one another. But the true love is the love of the truth. Without a love for the truth and have it be a part of your spiritual life, you are empty. If everyone has the spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit can respond.

Scripture by Saint Paul in the Epistle to the Thessalonians says that the love of the truth is what God gives us up to the pursuit of truth, not the corruption and apostasy that perverts us and abandons us to a lie. This morning my son asked, 'Did God send the lie, or did he allow it?' I think what He does is abandon us to the lie. The enemy can produce the lies, then God abandons us to the false and apostate religion – whatever it may be.

**Was the lie sent?**

I don't think God Himself would manufacture a lie because He has an adversary who does a pretty good job of that. But He can certainly allow the perpetration of a truth if there is no desire on the part of His people to follow what He loves. God has the right to abandon us if we continue to rebel against His truth. It is His desire, as He spoke about it on Earth for us to worship Him not only in the spirit, but in truth. So what good does it do to practice a prayerful, spiritual life if you are practicing it without the truth. That can lead to the introduction to false doctrines.

We don't have to go back too far in history to see the exercise of apostasy in spiritual life without truth. The Israelites, when they were journeying to Israel, they started worshipping false gods. It didn't take them too long either. Moses hadn't been gone that long before it happened.

That's because they didn't have a love for the truth. It was easy for Aaron, who was leading them in Moses' absence to lead them that way to bring them to a point where God allowed them who pursued that false idol and idol worship in order to manifest what was in their heart. If their hearts were truly pursuing truth and have love for it, Moses could have been gone for years and they wouldn't have violated and abandoned the truth.

There is a perfect example of God allowing a manifestation to show what was really in their hearts. They didn't really want to follow Him, even though God had done many things for them. It became very difficult for God to persuade them to come towards the truth because they were so stiff-necked. They preferred following any doctrine that pleased them, even to the point that they frustrated Moses.

So, in the last days of Christianity, as St. Paul writes about it, 'when he who is held back is left in the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit,' when God ends His dispensation and this period of mercy and says, 'Okay, you have been insisting upon following your false gods.' Let's face it, why is there even a manufacturing of false gods and false christs? Because man does not want to follow the Lord. They want to follow their own hearts. It all comes out of the heart. It's not something that the enemy

manufactures in some foreign land, then brings it to earth and says, 'Okay, we can nail the human race again by this new device that I have manufactured.'

The enemy doesn't have to do that. Man manufactures it himself out of his own heart. All the enemy has to do is use him and his energies to develop what he knows is in man's heart already. That's why Eve was in trouble even before the snake ever got hold of her.

The enemy saw the weakness that was in her. That's why in the Orthodox Church we don't believe women to be priests. We don't believe women to lead the family. We don't believe that the family can be even rescued in its entirety without the protection and the umbrella of the male father-head as God had intended the family unit to be blessed.

That's another lousy teaching that comes out of this protestant world. You couldn't choose a better country to nurture a false family entity than you could in America. Women have just about taken over everything. And of course God prophesied that when He said there will come a time when women will run the entire thing.

What He was saying is that man finally succumbs to the influence of a woman, just like Adam did. That's not to say that you can label or stereotype all women as being evil. But certainly the ones we see operating outside the doctrines of the Church are not right. They create and maintain a false way for a family unit to go.

**Please talk about the positive side of ecumenism, as it pertains to unity.**

It should, first of all, reunite Christianity, to where we have a common bond. I feel in my heart that one of the missions of the Elijah Ministry and the Spirit of Elijah is – as he did – first you expose the falseness of the existence of the ecumenical movement.

Once you have exposed the false Baal jesuses and the apostasies that we follow, the next step is to unite. The way you unite is simple. You re-establish the altar, which is sacred ground. Where Moses took his shoes off, God told him to because it's sacred ground, for the consecration.

There are three basic doctrines that have to unite us, without all the other methodology of being in unity. The three basic categories that unite Christianity, and I hate to use the word, ecumenism. I'd rather use the word, unity. And the unity of the Church falls within these areas.

One, that we all drink of the same cup or Eucharist because that establishes spiritual life in us. As God said when He walked the earth, 'Without that there is no spiritual life in you.'

Two, love. What good is all of this if there is not love? How is that expressed? How do you know you really love? Let's see. What belonged to God? What was the closest thing to Christ when He was on earth? His mother, Mary. Whether they are evangelists or whether they claim to be spiritual, they claim to be Christian, you can see immediately the anti-Catholicism spirit come out of them, which is as old as the devil himself. They always attack the Blessed Mother. They forget God's words, 'Honor your

mother and your father.' And they completely prostitute the true meaning of what her role was. She was the first Christian who existed.

Everyone very profoundly and very majestically pronounce themselves as having the blood of Christ covering their heads. Then they say, 'Oh, forget the Blessed Mother.' Yet, that very blood that they speak about having on their heads circulated through her body for the entire nine months. I don't know how many heartbeats that was, but I assure you that it purified everything in her as a human and a woman to the point that she was a pure vessel when she delivered God on earth at the birth of God in the Flesh coming from the Holy Spirit.

The Lord Himself said, Love your enemies. So how in the world can you say you reflect the true love of Christianity if you don't love His mother, the Blessed Mother?



It just seems impossible to me that I can walk the same places as a Metropolitan, or as a priest, or as an Orthodox in the same areas where they don't have a love for the Blessed Mother. I reject that. I'm not going to accept it. I have thought long and hard about this and I believe that next to communion comes the love for the Blessed Mother. That

reflects a true love and an understanding that can extend out to loving all others.

Then the third one – and all three make up the unity I'm talking about that is bastardized in the ecumenical movement, but wouldn't be if it truly was about unity – is the power of the Holy Spirit.

How can you possibly accomplish any of this without divine intervention of the Power of the Holy Spirit, which worked the birth of Christ, which works in each of us, if we have the love of the truth and corrects us and nurtures us and operates the Church? The reason people get turned off by organized religion is because it is organized by man and is

without the Holy Spirit, it's without the Love of Mary and it's without the Holy Eucharist – the Holy Chalice.

How can you have Christ's Church without true apostolicity, which began the Church, and the holy priesthood? He even told the Hebrews in the Old Testament they are priests forever. And yet here comes Sola Persona rearing its ugly head, saying you don't need anybody – we are all priests. And Sola Scriptura. But they forget that one thousand, five hundred years had been vested in truth before the first printing press had been invented and the first Bible had been printed. It all came from the knowledge and hand-me-down Holy Tradition of the Church.

**CONTACT US AT 561-835-3557**