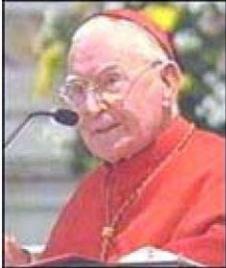




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Daly spells it out once more — unity will only be on Rome's terms



Cardinal Cahal Daly

The recent Vatican document, *Dominus Jesus*, is nothing less or more than a restating of Rome's views regarding herself and those ecumenical churches which are seeking reunion with her. However, its publication caused something of a stir amongst the ecumenical Protestant church leaders because of the labelling of them as not being churches "in the proper sense." They were lesser entities than the Roman Catholic Church. This was resented by ecumenical clerics from within the so-called Protestant churches.

Only recently, Rev. John Paterson, the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, the main Anglican church in the Republic of Ireland, was still showing annoyance at the issuing of the statement.

Speaking at a service for "Christian Unity" in the Roman Catholic Church of Adam and Eve in Dublin, he said: "I would have to be honest and say that the ecumenical climate at present is a bit frosty. Despite that wonderful picture of Pope John Paul II, together with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Patriarch of Constantinople, jointly kneeling at the opening of the Holy Doors in St Peter's in January last year, the year ended with *Dominus Jesus*. That document is a strong re-statement of basic Christian faith which is very necessary in a secular age - but it carried with it a sting in its tail that Christians outside the communion of Rome are not true Churches in any real sense of the word."

So relations are frosty and the Pope has stung them with his tail!! It is obviously still smarting some four months after the release of the Vatican's document.

Just why it should sting we are not sure for what the Pope said has always been Rome's position. In the "Decree of Ecumenism", issued in the heyday of ecumenical fervour of the mid-1960s, Rome defined her position on unity with other churches so: ". . . our separated brethren . . . are not blessed with that unity which Jesus Christ wished to bestow on all those to whom He has given new birth . . . It was to the apostolic college alone, of which Peter is the head, that we believe that our Lord entrusted all the blessings of the New Covenant." The document goes on to speak of ecumenical events and their consequences. "The result will be that, little by little, as the obstacles to perfect ecclesiastical communion are overcome, all Christians will be gathered, in a common celebration of the Eucharist, into the unity of the one and only church, which Christ bestowed on His Church from the beginning. This unity, we believe, subsists in the Catholic Church as something she can never lose . . ."

Despite the disgruntlement of his fellow ecumenists, Cardinal Daly has reiterated Rome's position and has basically issued a rebuke to the complainers from among those who are not true churches "in the proper sense."

Speaking on Christian unity at a function in Arklow, in the Irish Republic, on Wednesday, January 24th, Cardinal Daly defended the *Dominus Jesus* document. He said: "Clarity and consistency in doctrinal statements cannot be an enemy of ecumenism, for all authentic



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ecumenical dialogue must be based on truth."

So, all such as Dean Paterson who are still smarting from being told that they are lesser Christians and can only become full Christians by submitting to the authority of the Pope, had better get used to the pain for they can unite with Rome only on the basis of them accepting that they are a lesser breed of "Christian" who wish to obtain fulness of grace by coming in under the Pope's umbrella!

The truth is, that neither the Church of Rome or the present Church of Ireland can be viewed as Christian churches in the light of God's Word. Romanism with its mass, priesthood, beads and candles, confession and holy water and salvation by works; Anglicanism with its rejection of the Word of God and its ordination of sodomites, are abominations in God's sight. Whatever unity they eventually accomplish will be one conceived and consummated in hell!