



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Chorus of welcomes from ecumenical churches.



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**Archbishop Eames of the Church of Ireland led the the ecumenists of Ireland in welcoming the new pope, closely followed by the Methodists and Presbyterians. The three main ecumenical churches in Northern Ireland all have statements, within their doctrinal basis, which denounce Rome and Romanism as antichristian. The Westminster Confession of Faith of Presbyterianism, the 39 Articles of the Church of Ireland and the New Testament Notes of John Wesley all have this denunciation in common. The wicked departure from these standards is plain for all to see. They were basically cast into the dirt and trodden underfoot by the spokesmen of the churches as they vied with each other to be the**

**most welcoming of the new pope.**

The Church of Ireland Primate, Archbishop Robin Eames, offered Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland his "prayerful good wishes" on the appointment of the new pope. "I pray that God will bless and guide him as he takes up his new privileges and heavy

responsibilities at this time," he said. Thus he prays for God's blessing upon the one whom his own 39 Articles claim is a purveyor of vain inventions repugnant to the Word of God and blasphemous fables and dangerous deceits, (Articles 22, 28, 31). The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Dr Brian Fletcher, also welcomed the election. "Our prayer is that, chosen by the Holy Spirit the new pontiff will lead the Church in God's way and that like Benedict XV he too will strive to bring about peace in today's world." Dr. Fletcher believes that the new pope was "chosen by the Holy Spirit." How different was John Wesley's estimate of the popes. "The man of sin, the son of perdition . . . in many respects, the Pope has an indisputable claim to those titles. He is, in an emphatical sense, the man of sin, as he increases all manner of sin above measure. And he is, too, properly styled, the son of perdition, as he has caused the death of numberless multitudes, both of his opposers and followers, destroyed innumerable souls, and will himself perish everlastingly" (JW's notes on 2 Thess 2: 3-4). The Clerk of the General Assembly, Dr Donald Watts, spoke on behalf of all the members of his denomination when he said: "The Presbyterian Church in Ireland welcomes the announcement of the appointment of Pope Benedict XVI and extends good wishes to all its friends in the Roman Catholic Church, who now look forward to his leadership." Again, these sentiments fly in the face of the teaching of the Standards of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Confession of Faith states the Presbyterian view of the pope. "There is no other head of the Church but the Lord Jesus Christ: nor can the Pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof; but is that Antichrist, that man of sin and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the Church against Christ, and all that is called God." (WCF-chapter 25, para 6). So far, we have heard no protest from any evangelicals within these denominations and that does not surprise us for, despite their professed allegiance to Christ, they think more of their stipend and manse than of His name and honour.