



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Ecumenists upset at Pope's fresh claims of primacy



Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, believed to be the second most powerful figure within Romanism, has upset ecumenists by claiming that the Pope is developing "papal primacy" in his relations with other Churches. Ratzinger said that the Pope has started to "realise papal primacy in a new way" through his numerous ecumenical encounters.

His statement is "papal-speak" for asserting that the Roman Catholic Church has "primacy" in the ecumenical arena. This has greatly concerned "Protestant" ecumenists.

An editorial in the Church of Ireland Gazette states: "Simply because the Pope leads such a large Church as the Roman Catholic Church does not mean that he possesses any form of primacy when he meets with leaders of other communions."

Cardinal Ratzinger's comments re-open the wounds amongst some ecumenists caused by the Vatican document *Dominus Jesus*. Published in 2000, *Dominus Jesus* restated the Catholic teaching that Protestant Churches were "not Churches in the proper sense." The Gazette went on to say: "Rome should be invited to participate in the discussion, but it should be made very clear to the Vatican that the Pope can only have an equal place among the leaders of the world's Christian communions."

These comments are deceitful and meant to mislead their flock. What Rome is claiming is what ecumenists have long indicated they would wish to see take place. Back in 1948, one of the delegates of the United Lutheran Church, Dr. C F Nolde said: "In a popular sense the first meeting of the Church Council could be spoken of as a reversal of the trend which began at the Reformation." That surely makes clear what the objective of ecumenism was all about! A past head of the Anglican Communion (of which the Church of Ireland is a part), Dr. Fisher, said: "If the Pope would like to come in as Chairman of the General Council of Churches, we would welcome him." Is that not a recognising and yielding to "papal primacy"?

Has not the Church of Ireland, along with the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in Ireland, been promoting the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity"? The objective of this annual ecumenical event is the "recognition by all Christians of the Chair of St Peter as the divinely constituted Centre of Unity."

These "annoyed ecumenists" are two-faced hypocrites who, if truth were told, are annoyed, not at the contents of the pope's claims and their import, but rather that he said it and so risked their flocks finding out just where their deceiving ministers are taking them! May God be pleased yet to awaken the Protestants and the Roman Catholic people to the deceivers and charlatans who are their spiritual leaders.