



ECUMENISM COMES ALIVE!

Part One

**Why Jesus Is
Coming Soon Series**



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Starting with John Wycliffe (1328–1384), the “Morning star of the Reformation”, and his followers, the Lollards, a palpable schism developed between the Catholic Church and a growing number of opponents.

Martin Luther (1483–1546) later became a seminal figure against Catholic “excesses,” leading what eventually would become the Protestant Reformation. Roman Catholics hated this defiance and labeled Luther and his followers “**heretics**.” The schism remained. It appeared permanent.



This divide remained deep and emotional, especially in the Protestant world. Then Paul VI completed the Second Vatican Council, to which many Protestants had been invited and participated in many deliberations. Then he invited six Protestant theologians who became part of a commission charged with writing a New Mass [*Novus Ordo Mass*]. On Nov. 21, 1964, Paul issued a statement that Protestants were united with Christ – no longer heretics.



That turned the tide. The Protestants began to see ecumenical ties with Rome!

Almost supernaturally, in the early 1960's, those ancient cultural and religious “**aversions**” began to disappear!

The “**impossible**” became an exciting adventure.



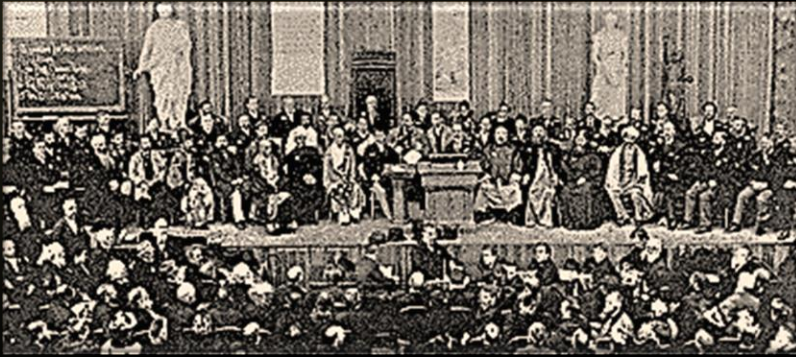
The charisma and presidency of Roman Catholic John F. Kennedy further blunted religious prejudice. Other factors had already begun!

In 1888 Bible expositor E. G. White, felt deeply impressed, even prophetically, to note that “Protestants of the United States will ... reach over the abyss to clasp hands with [the] Roman power” once again! (GC 588)

That was stunning. Five years later she again wrote in a Protestant magazine:

“Protestantism is reaching out its hands to clasp hands with popery, and every indication makes manifest that prophecies are about to be fulfilled.” (RH, February 21, 1893)

What was she observing?



Few people were aware that when she penned those words, ten world religions

were laying plans to meet in September of 1893 for the first “World Parliament of Religion” in Chicago!

Cardinal James Gibbons, representing the Roman Catholic Church, played an active part in those meetings. This gathering succeeded in establishing a dialogue between representatives of the key world religions!





Pope Leo XIII

(1878–1903)

was the Pope during that time and “chastised” Cardinal Gibbons for uniting “with heretics.” But that was all an external façade.

Within weeks Leo XIII extended invitations to Orthodox Christians and Protestants to reunite with Rome. He then called them: “our separated brethren.” [Maxwell-Stuart, *Chronicles*

of the Popes (Thames and Hudson, London – 1997), p. 221]

No major contacts came between the various denominations until this Pope assumed power:



Pope Pius XI
(1922–1939)

Before his election, he had been very irritated that Protestants had called their own ecumenical forum, the *World Missionary Conference*, in 1910.

This man was laying sinister plans to dominate the West and wanted to control all ecumenical dialogue! James M. Gillis wrote: “America will be predominantly Catholic before the present generation dies.” (*Catholic World* – 1929) This pope wanted no interference!

In 1929, during Pius XI's reign, the papacy was awarded by Italy the "Vatican State" via the *Lateran Treaty*. It had become, once again, a Church/State, a world power (a position it had lost in 1870)! Ambassadors from around the world began to be exchanged with the "Holy See" – the name for the Church/State union!

Then something happened in 1935 which alarmed Pope Pius XI. A "Conference of Christians and Jews" met in the United States, recommending to President Roosevelt that he establish a **Brotherhood Day**. He complied!

With retaliatory speed, Michael Williams, a United States representative to Pius XI, quickly published in many newspapers this notice:



“There was need for a commonwealth of brotherhood today when terrible prophets are arising now to lead the masses astray.” He emphasized that the purpose of Brotherhood Day was not only to bring representatives of the various faiths together to talk but also to work together.” Signed: Pope Pius XI (1935).

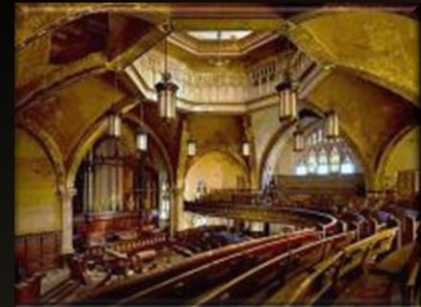
*Pius XI stole the Jewish/Protestant
ecumenical momentum!*

He was a brutal opportunist!

BUT:

*THAT DID BECOME THE IMPETUS FOR THE
MODERN ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT THAT
CONTINUES TODAY!*

How could that have
happened?



Protestants liked the spirit displayed in
the newspapers by the Roman Catholic
Church! It seemed like a new era for
peaceful coexistence had arrived. But
how they were deceived!

Behind closed doors in that year (1935) a sinister “Catholic in-house” position emerged!

Pius XI retained Jesuit E. Boyd Barrett, a psychoanalyst, to develop a plan to mold America into a Roman Catholic nation. Barrett later quipped that the Catholic Church would make it seem that it trends towards Interdenominationalism.



“The Church does not go far in this direction, but she goes sufficiently far **to lead the public to believe** that she has abandoned her old-time policy of splendid isolation.” (p. 110)



“Interdenominationalism is impossible to Roman Catholics except in so far as they **make pretense** of it to cull favor and secure political advantage.” (p. 122)

“Interdenominationalism, as practiced by Catholic leaders and priests, is so insincere, ... it is **window-dressing** with a political end in view.” (p. 125)

“Rome stoops low to conquer in so far as she seeks to win a way into public esteem by the **false pretense** of Interdenominationalism.”

[E. Boyd Barrett, *Rome Stoops to Conquer* (Julian Messner, Inc., N.Y. – 1935), p. 125]

That is stunning, blatant, and hateful deception!

In an unrelenting subversive tone came a similar statement in 1948 as their plans continued to mature:



“The Roman Catholic Church, convinced, through its divine prerogatives, of being the true church, must demand the right of freedom for herself alone, because such right can only be possessed by [the holder of] truth ... The Church cannot blush for her own want of tolerance, as she asserts it in principle and applies it in practice.” (*Civiltà Cattolica*; April, 1948)



In 1949 Paul Blanshard published a book called *American Freedom and Catholic Power*. It indicted Protestant weakness!

He sculptured an image of eventual Catholic domination of the United States, giving an agonizing description of how Protestants would compromise:

Catholics would “Avoid ‘religious difference’ in dialogue with others. They would focus on cultural and social issues all agree on!”

Abortion

Birth Control

Family Values

Education

Politics

Church/State

Protestants became enamored!

Blanchard was right: Protestants quickly perceived this as a wonderful opportunity to a “better society” and work with Roman Catholics! Ecumenism had accelerated! It didn't stop!





All this worked well for the Catholic world as it laid plans for Vatican II, its second “world congress.”

Pope John XXIII (1958–1963)
organized and presided over it.

Catholic **public image**? “The Church was in need of a ‘renewal’ in its thinking! Some of its views needed changing.” They would accept some of the blame for the breakup of Christianity!

Protestants were even asked to participate in some of the council's discussions!



Then came this **apparent** conciliatory statement:

“The Lord of Ages wisely and patiently follows out the plan of grace on our behalf, sinners that we are. In recent times more than ever before, He has been rousing divided Christians to remorse over their divisions and to a **longing for unity**.” (*Decree on Ecumenism* – Vatican II)

This manipulated and deceived Protestant thinking!



Though arrogant, self-serving and projecting subliminal guilt, Protestants also accepted these papal words of blame:

“Nevertheless, our separated brethren, whether considered as individuals or as Communities and Churches, are not blessed with that unity which Jesus Christ wished to bestow on all those who through Him were born again into one body, and with Him quickened to newness of life – that unity which the Holy Scriptures and the ancient Tradition of the Church proclaim.” (!?!)

It is not the Roman Catholic Church's fault that separation has occurred. It is really because of all those who separated from us! Papal Rome had Protestants "in their hands!"





2300 Bishops convened in Rome for the Second Vatican Council

(1962–1965)

“Never had in modern times,
the Church itself drawn such
sympathetic interest from
non-Catholics.” (*Life*, 12–17–1965)

Protestants reviewed drafts, held “private”
meetings with Catholic leaders, even helped
to stall, albeit only temporarily, a key
document on tradition.

Scripture and tradition were to Catholics of equal value, “divining” truth – the latter often taking precedence! How was that solved?

Protestants accepted the new wording that Scripture, Jesus and tradition were equal sources of divine truth (with Jesus at center)!

(*First Things*, “That They May Be One,” “Reflections of Richard J. Neuhaus” – October 1995)

Compromise after compromise was made. Jews were no longer guilty of the death of Christ. **New dogma:** “Spiritually we are all Semites.”

Fast forward to Pope John Paul II

In October 1986, Pope John Paul II met with 130 religious leaders from around the world – from witch doctors to representatives of the Salvation Army. All major non-Christian religions were there! Pope John Paul II even allowed his friend, the Dalai Lama, to replace the cross with a statue of Buddha in one session!



“Shouldest thou help the wicked, and love them who hate the Lord?” (II Chr. 19:2)

Billy Graham intensified his long support of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1978 he noted:

“I’ve found that my beliefs are essentially the same as those of orthodox Roman Catholics.”

(McCall’s, January 1978)



He visited Pope John Paul II three times and called him the “world’s greatest evangelist,” noting that the “differences in their theology” was not important as far as personal salvation was concerned. [Dave Hunt, *A Woman Rides the Beast* (Harvest House Publishers; Eugene, OR – 1994)]



“The ... Billy Graham Evangelistic Association acquired the printing rights [for a special edition] of ... the classic, *Henry H. Halley Bible Commentary*, entitled, *Pocket Bible Handbook*.... [It] had described [Rome’s] martyrdom of millions [in its 1962 Billy Graham Crusade Edition] ... the Graham Association ... removed all those pages.” [Citing noted ed. Wilson Edwin, *Today’s Evangelicals Embracing the World’s Deadliest Cult* (Quebec Baptist Mission; Compton, Quebec, Canada – 1994), p. 57]

Organizations that quickly began to work with the Catholic Church included:

World Vision International

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Prison Fellowship

Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship

Campus Crusade for Christ

Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship

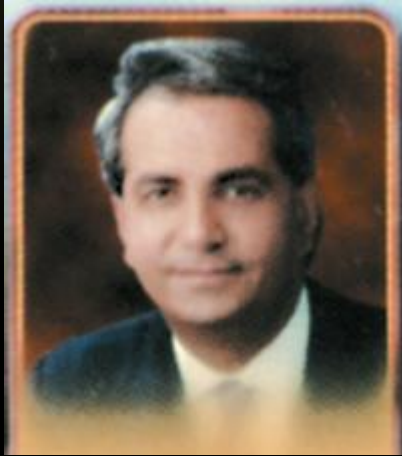
Wycliff Bible Translators



John Stott, then advisor to the *World Council of Churches*, said: “The visible unity of all professing Christians should be our goal ... and evangelicals should join others in the Church of England in working towards full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.” [Michael de Semlyen, *All Roads Lead to Rome – The Ecumenical Movement* (Dorchester House Publications, England – 1993), pp. 30-31]



David Watson, Anglican priest and author said: “The Reformation was one of the greatest tragedies that ever happened to the church.” (*ibid.*, Michael de Semlyen, p. 30)



Benny Hinn said: “Roman Catholic doctrine is no concern, for after all, Catholics love Jesus.”

[Michael de Semlyen, *All Roads Lead to Rome – The Ecumenical Movement* (Dorchester House Publications, England – 1993), p. 405]

The Lambeth Conferences are administrative assemblies of all bishops from the Anglican Communion. They meet in this Cathedral of Canterbury for those sessions.



From 1948 to 1988 many resolutions were adopted to develop unity statements with the Roman Catholic Church. Finally, in 1991, came this report:

“It is entirely possible that the Anglican Church could disappear to make way for a United World Church.” (*Church of England Newspaper*, May 3, 1991)

In 1989, on a TV show with a Catholic priest, Paul Crouch said:

“In the essentials our theology is basically the same: some of these even so-called doctrinal differences are simply matters of semantics.



“So I say to the critics and theological nitpickers, ‘Be gone, in Jesus’ name’
Let’s come together [with Rome].
[audience applauded]

“I’m eradicating the word ‘Protestant’ even out of my vocabulary.”

James Dobson, founder of *Focus on the Family*, said in 1990:



The Pope is “the most eminent religious leader who names the name of Jesus Christ.” (Hunt, *op. cit.*, p. 413.)

Dobson didn't know that Pope Pius XII had said: “For those who do not belong to the visible body of the Church ... none can be assured of eternal salvation, because ... they are still deprived of the helps and heavenly favors found only inside the Catholic Church.” (Pope Pius XII, *Mistici Corporis*, 6/29/43)

Dobson is not Catholic!



Rome reached out to Muslims in 1993, calling for Christians, Muslims, and animists to respect each other.

This later (2007) led to 130 Muslim scholars writing a letter to Pope Benedict XVI, asking that they all work together for world peace.

Pope John Paul II had been reaching out to Shintoists, Buddhist, Voodooists and Hindus. He said: “The world does well to attend willingly to” these traditions of “ancient wisdom!” (1986)



Does that mean “time” is running out for the “cross of Jesus Christ in Catholic thinking?”

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as [in the likeness of] ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” (II Cor. 11:13-15 – KJV)

Compromise will not take out the “knots” of religious differences.

Truth is a precious commodity. When it is suppressed at the expense of “getting along,” Satan has a “divisive weapon” at his disposal.

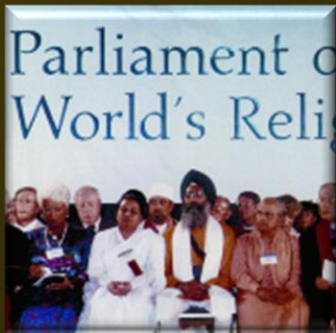


There appears to be a growing inability to cope with “differences” and to “peacefully negotiate” opposing ideas in the “arena of conviction.”



With sensitive foresight, expositor White penetrated the dynamics of this ecumenical mindset:

“There has been for years, in churches of the Protestant faith, a strong and growing sentiment in favor of a union based upon common points of doctrine. To secure such a union, the discussion of subjects upon which all were not agreed – however important they might be from a Bible standpoint – must necessarily be waived.” (GC 444)

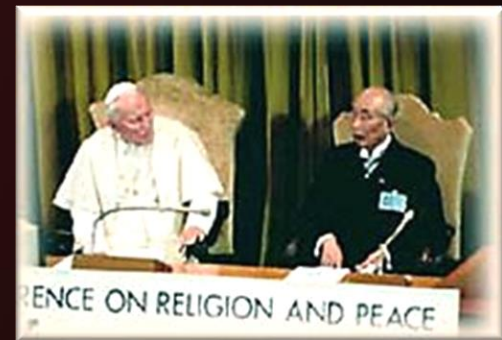


This was epitomized, as we noted, by the first **Parliament of World Religions** in 1893. A similar gathering was called 100 years later, in 1993!

Again, in Chicago, 6000 representatives from 125 different faiths met to worship and prove that they could get along. Out of this came a remarkable document of unity: *The Declaration of a Global Ethic*. It was/is a masterpiece of psychosocial idealism – but – God was never mentioned! 200 scholars of many faiths/religions worked on its wording over a 2-year period, coordinated by the RCC!

Other organizations emerged to carry the torch of ecumenism. One such agency, now tied to the United Nations, was the **World Conference on Religion and Peace**.

“The ultimate aim ... unify the major religions of the world under the umbrella of a UN globalization program. In 1994 John Paul II invited them to meet in the Vatican, where 1,000 representatives gathered to agree on a plan of joint ecumenical initiatives.

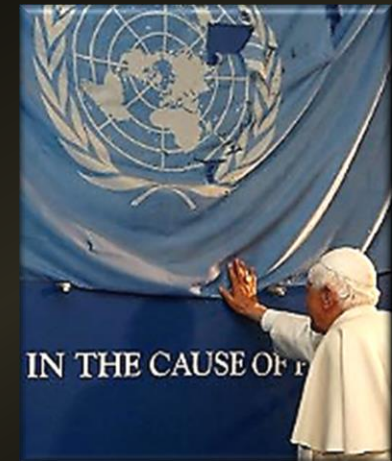


In 1994,
Nikkyo Niwano,
chairman, WCRP
thanked
Pope John Paul II
for hosting the event!



Do you see how the Vatican pushes itself into a prominent leadership position in the ecumenical arena? But – they even told us all this was done in “pretense.”

One can come to no other conclusion, then, that these moves are positioning gestures toward their ultimate geopolitical control of this world.

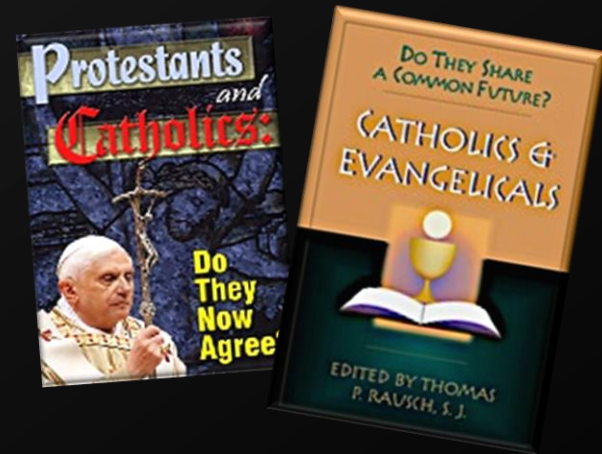


Another major event occurred in 1994!

Catholics and Protestants had been working on a unity document called: *“Evangelicals and Catholics Together.”*

Many prominent Protestant leaders gave strong support to this. It was signed on March 29, 1994, as a major “interfaith accord” by 39 scholars!

Many books were quickly published in review of this historic ecumenical document!



“Our common resolve is not based merely on a desire for harmony. **We reject any appearance of harmony that is purchased at the price of truth.** Our common resolve is made imperative by obedience to the truth of God revealed in the Word of God, the holy Scriptures....” **[another pretense – tradition was never mentioned]!**

“We pray that our unity ... will become ever more evident as a sign to the world of God’s reconciling power.” (ECT document).

This movement was a byproduct of the late Charles Colson of *Prison Fellowship* Ministries and the late priest Richard John Neuhaus of the *Institute on Religion and Public Life*.



Though this “coalition of intent” to demonstrate love appears noble, it risked the RCC’s coercive leadership position! Concomitant with that ecumenical thrust was a parallel activity under the guise of “dominion theology.”

That growing movement was/is also a coalition of “believers” who want to enact “political change” commensurate with the “common good” of society!

Though abortion, right to life, birth control, religious liberty, clean environment, etc., are their cooperative issues, a growing voice for a common rest day is on the rise!



Expositor White warned:



“When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.” (GC 445) Social “doctrine” has now become an overriding issue with many evangelical churches, making a coalition of “danger!”



Pope John Paul II published on May 25, 1995, an encyclical called *That They May Be One!*

The late Richard John Neuhaus headed up the *Catholic Alliance* and spoke out regarding that encyclical: “The document underscores the priority of East–West relations in the Catholic Church’s understanding of the ecumenical imperative, with the pope repeatedly emphasizing that **we can settle for nothing less than the restoration of the full communion** that was formally broken in 1054.”

Does that strike you negatively? He helped formulate ECT – then, within a year, makes it plain that unity must be on Catholic terms!



“Ecumenism does not relativize or diminish the unique claims of the Catholic Church. On the contrary, it is the unique status of the Catholic Church that makes ecumenism mandatory. Ecumenism is not a program of the Catholic Church; ecumenism is in the nature of being the Catholic Church. It cannot be true to itself unless it is ecumenical.”

(Richard John Neuhaus (Catholic Alliance), *Catholic Crises Magazine*, September 1998)



“The Catholic Church is not simply a church among the churches – it is not even the biggest or the best or the oldest or the grandest of the churches. Rather, it is, quite simply, the Church of Jesus Christ fully and rightly ordered. That may sound arrogant, but the relevant question is whether it is true. It may also sound exclusivist and profoundly anti-ecumenical, but in fact it is not. Just the opposite is the case.

“The difference now is the irrevocable pledge of the Catholic Church to take the lead ... in striving for the fulfillment of the prayer of our Lord that they may all be one.” (*Catholic Crises Magazine*, September 1998)



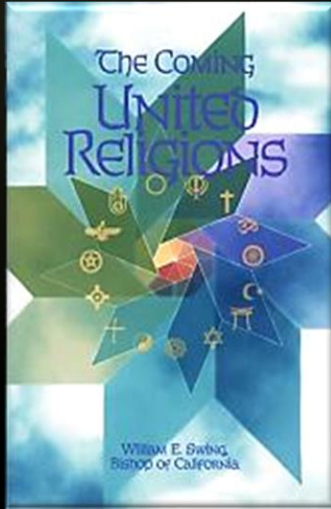
Pope John Paul II addressed the United Nations that year, 1995. He appealed for a “global spirituality” to help unify a world in moral chaos.

This call stimulated the private development (but U.N. linked) of the *United Religious Organization* under Habitat II. That agency had a social and economic agenda for global governance, involving a world constitution, world taxation, regulations on the environment, population control, gender equality, and embracing a vast *global spirituality*.



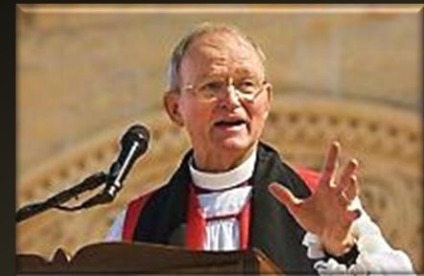
Robert Muller, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations for 38 years, came out strongly for the *United Religions Organization*.

He had been urging Pope John Paul II to lead out in a world ecumenical meeting ever since his successful gathering in Assisi, Italy, in 1986. But this didn't begin with Rome!

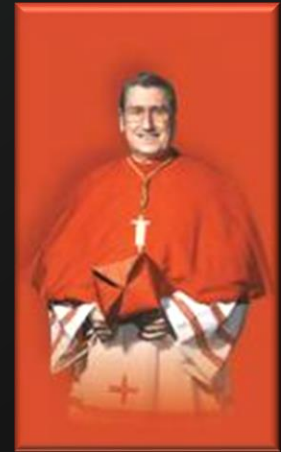


Prophecy Research Initiative visited the headquarters for this U.N. agency, located at the Presidio in San Francisco, in June 1996. They were working on a *United Religious Constitution*.

Bishop William E. Swing, was the initial titular head of this organization. He was pastor of the *Grace Cathedral Church* in S.F., CA. BUT – the Roman Catholic Church wanted that responsibility!



John Cardinal O'Connor, the Archbishop of New York, was aware of what had been going on in California. He quietly called 25 evangelical Protestant leaders to his residence in N.Y. They voted to work together on a global “religious” agenda for unity.



In 1997 Catholics, Protestants and Jews agreed, under his leadership, as a Judeo-Christian coalition, to bring moral leadership to the world. The *United Religions Organization* of the UN began to weaken!

Why is this all so important?

What Pope John the XXIII began in October 1962 with Vatican II, by receiving a large delegation of religious leaders from around the world, has put the Roman Catholic Church in the ecumenical spotlight! They want to be in control of any such “world” organization!





Shortly thereafter, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, recognized as the head of 250 million Orthodox Christians, spoke at Georgetown University: “Our heart is opposed to the specter of an everlasting separation. Our heart requires that we seek again our common foundations and the original starting point that we share.” (*Our Sunday Visitor*, 11/9/97)

The following year Bartholomew said: “‘All orthodox patriarchs would like to patch up ties with the pope.’ He had paid a historic week-long visit to the Vatican in 1995.” (NCR, 7/5-11/98)

In 1999 Orthodox Patriarch Teoctist said:

“We believe the Christian churches must unite their efforts and concentrate on the work of the sanctification of man and the world.”

(Orthodox Romania Patriarch Teoctist, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 5/30/99)



“The wide diversity of belief held by the various Protestant churches is regarded by many as decisive proof that efforts to secure unity will never succeed. But there has been for years, in churches of the Protestant faith, a strong and growing sentiment in favor of a union based upon common points of doctrine. To secure such a union, subjects upon which all are not agreed – however important they might be from a Bible standpoint – must be set aside.” (GC 444)

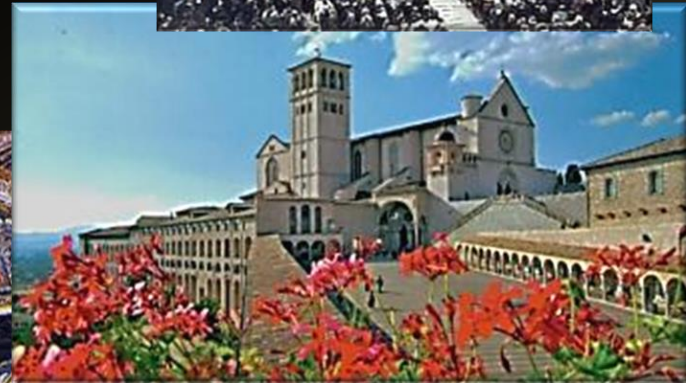


By the time the September 11, 2001, tragedy occurred, the ecumenical goodwill and power of the papacy had become global.

Over a **brief three-month period** the Vatican notified the leaders of the world's religions to come to Assisi, Italy, for a world time of unified prayer.

Over 250 people came. Muslim leaders said: *"Whenever the Pope wants to have such a gathering, we will come."*

To one of Rome's great "show-pieces," the world's "religiously powerful" came on January 24, 2002, to pray together. This included 30 Imams from the Muslim world!



Can you imagine the power of Rome to gather that many individuals in just over 90 days?



Rome developed another “ecumenical” idea:

Let’s bring the world’s religious leaders to an **apparition** site or a major RCC religious shrine for “ecumenical bonding.”

Thus, the first Ecumenical Congress on September 20-23, 2004, occurred at the *Marian Shrine of Kevelaer* in Germany.



Bishop Brian Farrell of the Vatican’s *Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity*, who works closely with the *World Council of Churches*, presided.

Value? The world's religions are now identifying with Roman Catholic shrines while enjoying ecumenical fellowship.



Chapel of the Apparitions

They are also sites where millions of pilgrims and tourist come each year!



Pilgrims gather in the central plaza at the Shrine of Fatima.

Inside that shrine/church is where a relief of Mary being crowned by Christ and God is carved in the ceiling! This artwork became a magnet to Protestants and Pagan delegates alike. The “natural” followed:



A Warm Protestant Welcome for Mary

January 25, 2008 By Richard Covington

Time was, for Protestants, when the Virgin Mary was a once-a-year thing. “We dragged Mary out at Christmas along with the angels and placed her at center stage,” says religious essayist Kathleen Norris.

Today, more and more Protestants are welcoming Mary back into their spiritual lives. Several new books by Protestant authors have spurred new interest in the Virgin Mother. It was seen as Catholic territory, but now the lines between denominations are dropping.”

<http://www.usnews.com/articles/news/religion/2008/01/25/a-warm-protestant-welcome-for-mary.html>



Soon geopolitical decisions will be driven by the growing mantra of “the common good.” This will be guided by a “moral agenda” that will likely be at variance with yours. Will you be ready to stand for your convictions – no matter what the pressure?

The End



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