



# ECUMENISM COMES ALIVE!

Part Three



**Why Jesus Is  
Coming Soon Series**

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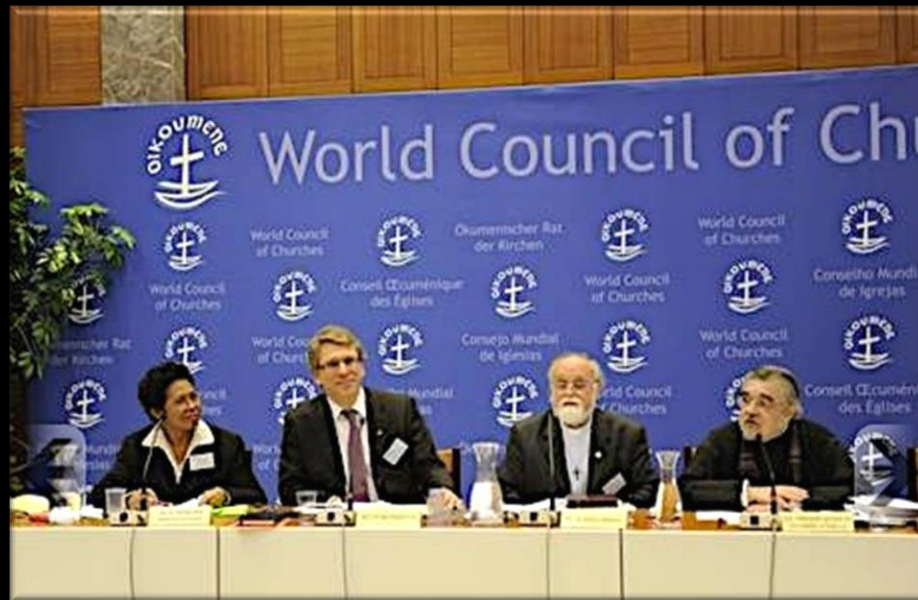


Stunning – shortly before Pope Benedict's October 2011 ecumenical gathering of 176 world religious leaders, the Catholic Church in the United States brought Jewish and Muslim clergy together for joint worship experiences. The priests read from their respective sacred texts in an initiative to counter anti-Muslim and anti-Semitism bigotry.

*(Religion Today Summaries – May 19, 2011. Compiled and edited by Crosswalk)*

This all represented a major *watering down* of religious uniqueness by encouraging ecumenical sympathy for common beliefs.

In January of 2012, the World Council of Churches joined the Roman Catholic Church (a non-member) to celebrate Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



## Summation Statement by Rome After that Meeting



**World Council  
of Churches**

“The unity for which we pray is not merely a ‘comfortable’ notion of friendliness and co-operation. It requires a willingness to dispense with competition between us. We need to open ourselves to each other, to offer gifts to and receive gifts from one another, so that we might truly enter into the new life in Christ, which is the only true victory.”

(Vatican City, January 17, 2012) ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org))



At the same time, the Vatican celebrated the *Day for Dialogue Between Catholics and Jews*.

Rabbi Giuseppe Laras noted in a radio address: “Jews and Catholics meet to reflect especially on those themes we can confront together, such as the search for peace and mutual understanding after 2,000 years of misinterpretation and distressing events.” Note the orientation relates to cultural/social issues – not Biblical!





From his high apartment window, Pope Benedict addressed thousands of pilgrims on June 29, 2012.

It was the time of the feast of Peter and Paul.

“Dear pilgrims, gathered here from all over the world! ... May the Blessed Virgin lead all believers in Christ to the goal of full unity!”





Dubbed the “Fortnight for Freedom,” the archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas, sponsored a diverse ecumenical gathering

June 2012, which lasted two weeks. They sang patriotic songs, recited prayers from their religious traditions and read a variety of famous quotes espousing the central role of religious freedom in preserving human dignity and the nation’s democracy. ----->



Archdiocese  
San Antonio, TX

“Today, we pray for freedom,” Auxiliary Bishop Oscar Cantu said during the service. “We pray for the elected officials of our country that they may uphold the laws that guarantee freedom of religion, freedom from coercion and freedom of conscience.”



In September 2012, Pope Benedict XVI traveled to Lebanon to meet the various Christian traditions in that Middle Eastern area. “Ecumenical unity does not mean uniformity of traditions and celebrations,” he said. Pope Benedict called the Christians of the Middle East to unite and see themselves as one people, laying aside their differences with the one goal of uniting humanity in Christ. (Christopher B. Warner, September 21, 2012)



Notice his central raised throne position!

These types of meetings are nothing more than unique invitations to have more than peaceful tolerance, but to unify on common areas of agreement. Always, the agenda leader of unification is the Roman Catholic Church.



A sinister development in the saga of ecumenism occurred in October 2012. Before delving into the concerns of that event, we reflect on the calculating words of that great English preacher, Charles Spurgeon, regarding Catholicism: It is the “essence of lies, and quintessence of blasphemy, as the religion of Rome is, it nevertheless fascinates a certain order of Protestants.” (C. H. Spurgeon, “The Religion of Rome,” from the January 1873 *Sword and Trowel*)





The Synod of Catholic Bishops met in October of 2012 to launch the worldwide *Year of Faith*. They repackaged a Vatican II document, *Instrumentum Laboris*, to develop new ways to evangelize during this year!

“The Church feels the responsibility to devise new tools and new expressions to ensure that the word of faith, which has begotten the true life of God in us, be heard more and be better understood, even in the new deserts of this world.”

(The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith,

*Instrumentum Laboris*,  
[www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/synod/documents/rc\\_synod\\_doc\\_20120619\\_instrumentum-xiii\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20120619_instrumentum-xiii_en.html), Para. 8, 11/09/2012)

However, they wouldn't change their position on papal indulgences, purgatorial pain of the dead, papal infallibility, the eucharist, or the need to “turn [the world] over to the virgin Mary, the Queen of all Saints.”



“The Christian faith is a true encounter and relationship with Jesus Christ. Transmitting the faith means to create in every place and time the conditions which lead to this encounter between the person and Jesus Christ. The goal of all evangelization is to create the possibility for this encounter.”

This encounter with Jesus Christ comes only through the Eucharist!





The Vatican invited the Baptist World Alliance to send a representative to this Papal Synod to speak. Timothy George, Dean of Beeson Divinity School, went and addressed the group:



“Dear Holy Father, Venerable Fathers of the Synod, brothers and sisters in the Lord ... The Christian faith ... is ‘a true encounter’ with Jesus Christ.”

(“The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith,” Vatican City, October 16, 2012 – <http://www.beesondivinity.com/fromthedean>)

**Was that a Protestant compromise?**

Former Jesuit priest

Bennett analyzed: ➡

“The Year of Faith is claiming to focus on faith, but instead it draws people ever deeper into Rome’s works-based salvation. Spurgeon’s warning is as timely today as it was 139+ years ago. To his concern that Rome ‘fascinates a certain order of Protestants,’ he added this: ‘Dignitaries of the papal confederacy are just now very prominent in benevolent movements, and we may be sure that they have ends to serve other than those which strike the public eye. A priest lives only for his church; —————→

he may profess to have other objects, but this is a mere blind ... The sooner we let certain Archbishops and Cardinals know that we are aware of their designs, and will in nothing co-operate with them, the better for us and our country. Of course, we shall be howled at as bigots, but we can afford to smile at that cry, when it comes from the church which invented the Inquisition. 'No peace with Rome' is the motto of reason as well as of religion." (Richard Bennett and Timothy F. Kauffman, "RC 'Year of Faith' Unfaithful to Christ and His Gospel" – <http://www.bereanbeacon.org/>)



November 2012, Saudi King Abdullah stunned the religious world by opening the *Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue* (KAICIID) in Vienna, Austria, with the partnership of the governments of Spain and Austria. The Vatican was noted as its “founding observer” organization. 800 religious leaders attended the opening meeting!!!

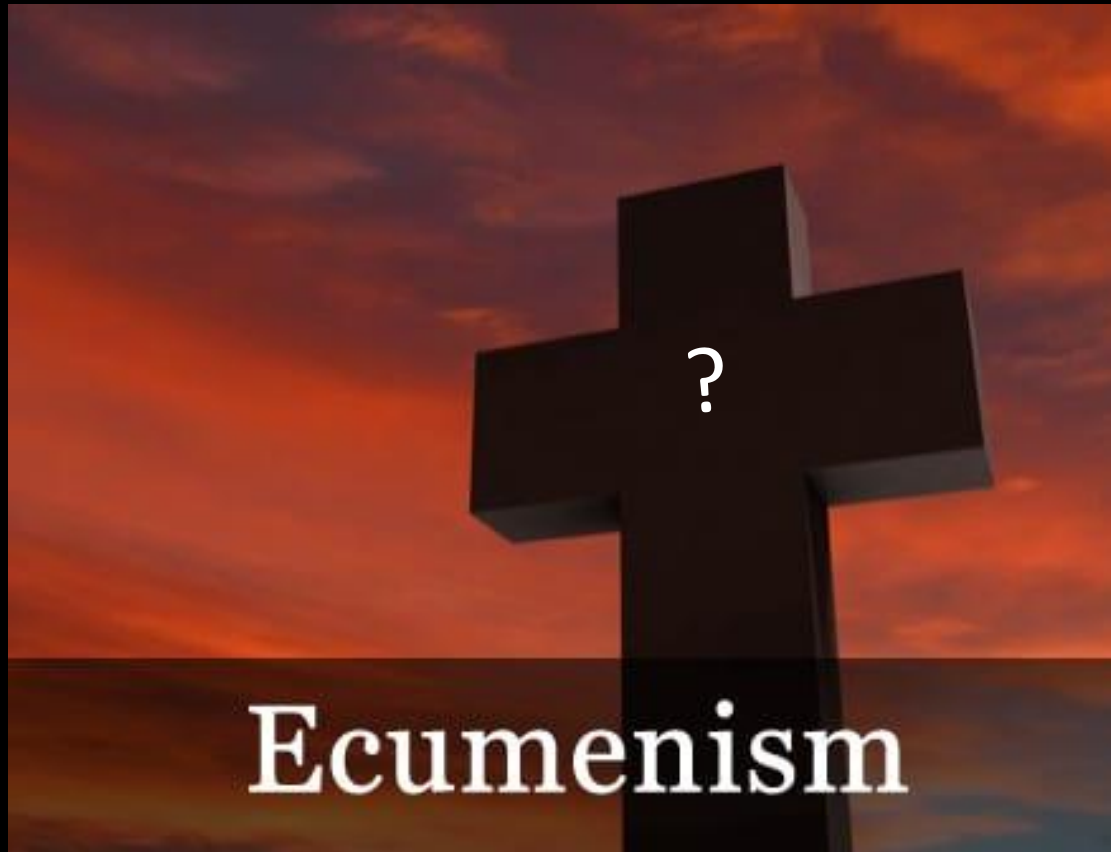


U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon addressed the conclave: “Religious leaders can unite people based on tenets and precepts common to all creeds.... I fully support your vision of religion as an enabler of respect and reconciliation.” (Thomson/Reuters, November 2012)



Ecumenism spells “compromise.” However, that doesn’t apply to Rome – for “Rome never changes.” The Protestant, Muslim and pagan worlds are taking positions they never intended to before!

Their inclusive interest to be the head “body” for the “common good” of the world transcends any commitment to truth. This trend does not prepare its parishioners for the return of Jesus or any future hope. It is actually a terrifying step in readiness for the soon appearance of Satan!



Where is this really going?



Pope Francis spoke here at the Lund Cathedral, Sweden, October 2016. Stunning the Christian world – it

marked the beginning of the 500<sup>th</sup> year since Martin Luther nailed the 95 thesis on the German Catholic Church at Wittenberg that lit the fuse which began the Protestant Reformation! Why was the Pope there? !!!

European Protestant and Catholic leaders had just signed a concordat calling for the “healing of the memories!”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/29/reformation-luther-pope-francis-catholics>

Adding to the drama, Pope Francis led out in prayers asking for “forgiveness for divisions perpetuated by Christians.” This was another step toward reconciliation, they all believed, between the Catholic and Protestant traditions.

Who organized this meeting? The Vatican. Pope Francis has made the reunification of all faiths a cornerstone issue in his pontificate. Yet – there was no attempt to address the issues that gave birth to the Reformation that Martin Luther was vehemently against! Luther had been branded as a “heretic” and stripped of his clerical authority.



Francis is doing everything possible to deemphasize the differences of the past. This cathedral, which he arranged to speak in, is Lutheran.

From a Catholic perspective, the “ordination of women priests” is a “closed door.” The Lutherans have had no compunction to close that door. Francis was compelled at this event to meet Archbishop Antje Jackelen, head of the Church of Sweden – a woman. Uncomfortable!





Jesuit Antonio Spadaro, editor in chief of the Jesuit publication *La Civiltà Cattolica*, July 2017, strongly criticized the long-standing friendly alliance between Fundamental Evangelical Christians and conservative Catholics begun in the early 1980's. It had brought ecumenical good will and opened dialogue never before seen. He didn't like that nor the moral basis of many of America's constitutional ideals! Spadaro sternly wrote that that alliance was "unfortunate" and "surprising" because Jesuit Pope Francis' message of mercy was in opposition to that alliance. What was he hiding?

<https://www.laciviltacattolica.com/evangelical-fundamentalism-and-catholic-integralism-in-the-usa-a-surprising-ecumenism/>



Francis and Spadaro are confidants. Spadaro and another confidant, Marcelo Figueroa, a Presbyterian pastor, jointly said that in recent decades, American politics has been shaped by “religion, a cult of the apocalypse and political Manichaeism [a religious system that had combined Christian, Gnostic, and pagan elements, in the 3rd century].



This sounds anti-ecumenical! What is going on? There is a sinister resistant element at work where Rome fears that Christian conservatism will undermine their reach for power.

Why does the Jesuit agenda really oppose that alliance? This is what they said:



1. “In God we trust” is an evil synthesis of “religion and state” [what the Catholics loved and oversaw for centuries in Europe]. They now want to guide “faith and politics” geopolitically. Through their promotion of “religious values tied to the economy,” they feel confident it will help America and enlighten the world! [The Vatican Bank operates in secret. However, Daniel 11:43 says they will control the world’s wealth right at the end.] This means that they will be successful.

2. Their “duty,” they feel, is to “free the world of evil” [as they define it]. Rome wants that power base. The alliance is getting too close in its ideals, which threatens these Jesuit “objectives.”
3. They have promoted inappropriate exegesis of the Old Testament regarding the Jewish state. They want to control Palestine. Any alliance that sympathizes with Israel must be opposed! Daniel states that at the very end they will have that power (Daniel 11:44-45). This alliance undermines that possibility!

4. In an age-old demeaning gesture, Spadaro sneered that this alliance was mainly made up of “whites from the deep American south.” Creating a negative label attracted the public media.
5. They said that this alliance had an “anesthetic attitude” toward ecology and saw this as against the Christian faith – like climate change. Again, this inappropriate label undermines the true intent of ecumenism.

Thought provoking: Might this tactic be used against those who revere the 7<sup>th</sup>-day Sabbath?

6. All this, he said, proves that this conservative Evangelical and Catholic union misinterprets the symbolic understanding of the book of Revelation.

How? It confuses spiritual power with temporal power, which means subjecting one to the other. [That is exactly what the papacy has done through the centuries when they controlled civil power].

7. He denied that they were trying to activate a “kingdom of God on earth as was at the basis of the Holy Roman Empire.” [But – prophecy says otherwise.]

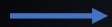
<https://www.ncregister.com/news/jesuit-publication-criticizes-evangelical-catholic-alliance-in-us>

The Jesuits want to control the ecumenical agenda!  
There are sinister deceptive plans enamoring the religious world.

E. G. White noted: “prophecy foretells a restoration of her power. ‘I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.’ [Rev. 13:3].... Paul states plainly that the ‘man of sin’ will continue until the second advent. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8.”

[*The Great Controversy* , p.578]

“Romanism as a system is no more in harmony with the gospel of Christ now than at any former period in her history. The Protestant churches are in great darkness, or they would discern the signs of the times. The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and





modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done. Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side.” [*Ibid.*, p. 565]

The Jesuits are creating roadblocks in a myriad of ways, even within an element of the Catholic Church, that might slow any move toward world domination. They criticize many things they are guilty of. This must be seen as a desperate move!

<https://www.ncregister.com/news/jesuit-publication-criticizes-evangelical-catholic-alliance-in-us>



A great white throne!

Their objective –  
which is actually against ecumenism!

By this time, it has become obvious that there is an “administrative front” within the Vatican which is capable of creating strong ties with “outside” religious and civil powers.

The Jesuit resistance is an overriding force, operating outside the “public” view with a coercive geopolitical agenda. This was apparent in the article in *La Civiltà Cattolica*.

Might there be two Roman Catholic administrative units that are moving forward two agendas? (1) peaceful ecumenism, (2) coercive moves to control the world? That is apparent!





Antonio Spadaro S.J.



Marcelo Figueroa

These two men came under severe criticism over what they had written. (Figueroa contributed to the document.) They raised a bizarre defense (paraphrased): “We won’t block any country or state’s secular threat to religious liberty.” Why? They want that freedom to eventually penetrate civil power to control the religious expression of others.

Christopher R. Altieri, journalist and contributing editor to *Catholic World Report*, wrote a stinging follow-up to these Jesuit positions:



“Spadaro and Figueroa want a powerful, organized, motivated cabal, filled with all the zeal of perverted religion, and bent on imposing its worldview on the nation and using American power to spread its convictions throughout the globe.”

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2017/08/04/ecumenism-religious-liberty-and-spadaros-straw-man/#:~:text=Ecumenism%2C%20religious%20liberty%2C%20and%20Spadaro%E2%80%99s%20straw%20man%20The,2017%20Christopher%20R.%20Altieri%20The%20Dispatch%2019%20Print>

Actually – that is what the church really wants!!!



Pope Francis flew to Myanmar in November of 2017. He visited the Kaba Aye Center, one of the most venerated Buddhist temples in Southeast Asia.

He shared a meal with the Buddhist Sangha Supreme Council representing the highest authority of the Buddhist clergy in Myanmar. “Our meeting is an important occasion to renew and reinforce the bonds of friendship and respect between Buddhists and Catholics.” “If we are to be united, as is our purpose, we need to surmount all forms of misunderstanding, intolerance, prejudice, and hatred.”

<https://religionsforpeaceaustralia.org.au/?p=4047>





Francis met with many of the country's religious and civil leaders, including the de facto "leader" of the country, *Aung San Suu Kyi*.



Francis did address the plight of the Rohingya. So many were killed by the Myanmar military. Thousands escaped to Bangladesh.

In 2018 Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, head of the Vatican's Council for Interreligious Dialogue, visited Israel. Since 2011 there have been ongoing negotiations over the issue of the Vatican-operated holy sites in Jerusalem. He asked Israel to place some of these holy places under Vatican authority, alluding especially to the Cenacle on Mount Zion and the Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem!

They want to “control” the places that Christians visit from all over the world!



Coexisting in Jerusalem are Muslims, Jews, and Christians. Jerusalem is a sacred city for all those persuasions. Pope Francis had previously said, when addressing the World Jewish Congress, “There may be political disagreements between governments and on political issues, but the State of Israel has every right to exist in safety and prosperity.”



The Vatican not only represented the United Nations, but Jews, Muslims, and Christians in this visit.

Daniel notes: *"He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain."* (Daniel 11:45 – NET) The papacy has had a controlling passion to have authority over those “holy sites” scattered in Palestine, especially in Jerusalem. It will require support not only from the Israeli government but the Islamic world because of their control of the Temple Mount.

The Bible says that they will succeed! This will be one of the ultimate historical ecumenical moves.

February 2018, 400 Muslims, Christians and Jewish leaders from around the world convened in Washington, D.C., to sign a document calling for protection of religious minorities and marginalized communities. It was organized by the “Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies.”



It was a call for protection of religious liberty, especially in Muslim countries. Its formal name: the *Washington Declaration*.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/400-muslim-christian-jewish-leaders-sign-washington-declaration-for-religious-tolerance.html>

“We believe that religious leaders have a special responsibility to ensure that the tenets and teachings of our faiths are not distorted for wrongful purposes....” “We pledge to work across confessional divides in support of values that are central to each of our faith traditions.”



The meetings were organized by this gentleman, Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayya, Chairman of the United Arab Emirates' Fatwa Council.

Why did he call this meeting? What was the driving force to bring so many faiths and people together?



There were no representatives from the radical Islamic world, who are a threat to Jews and Christians. There are few rebukes from the peaceful Islamic world against the terrorist organizations claiming the authority of the Koran for their heinous acts and repressive regimes.



He had already met with Pope Francis where a similar document had been signed. Maybe this all is sinister window dressing?

<http://binbayyah.net/english/shaykh-bin-bayyah-meeting-pope-francis/>

All the religions in the world can have “happy times” together and sign innumerable documents of ecumenical agreements of “tolerance,” but if there are no legal teeth to address any negative “intent,” they remain weak.

That is why the ties to the Vatican are “needed” and growing. The religious world is seeing them as a powerful force! They embody “a church and a state” with special representation at the United Nations and enjoy over 180 ambassadors and diplomatic missions to the “Holy See.” Churches see them as a diplomatic global hub, as do a growing number of nations.

John notes: *“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”* (Revelation 13:11-12)

This “wound” is seen by some as the “head” noted earlier in the chapter. However, by many scholars, it is seen as the “beast.” The papacy as a whole was wounded in 1870 with the confiscation of all its land. In 1929, through the Lateran Treaties, it again became a church and a state.

The world is attentive to the Holy See and the many voices that come out of the Vatican. One doesn't have to use the term "Catholic Church" but the "Holy See." That label exudes authority throughout the world. Its unique leader is the pope.

The Bible notes: *"The whole world followed the beast in amazement."* (Revelation 13:3 – NET)



“It is urgent that we set aside preferences to promote the common good, and so our good example is fundamental: it is essential that Christians pursue the path toward full visible unity” (Pope Francis – January 2021)

<https://www.worldcatholicnews.com/pope-francis-ask-god-for-unity-to-overcome-scandal-of-division-among-christians/>



That would require a “head,” a leader of the world’s religions. All roads will soon lead to Rome!



Soon the glorious return of Jesus will occur! Citizens of His kingdom will be gathered from those who have committed themselves unreservedly to His pure restorative gospel. We pray that your commitment to Him is without compromise and filled with excited hope!



**The End**

