

INTERCHURCH FAMILIES: ISSUES AND REFLECTIONS (IFIR) is an email newsletter compiled once or twice each year. It goes to those who send an email to ray.temmerman@shaw.ca asking to be added to the IFIR list. Those who want to unsubscribe can do the same. Ray Temmerman is responsible for the international Interchurch Families website. You can find the latest version of the IFIR, and older ones, at www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/index.shtm.

IFIR is intended for interchurch families (usually where one partner is Roman Catholic and the other a Christian of another communion) and all concerned for their welfare. It continues the work of the Interchurch Families journal, published by the British Association of Interchurch Families (1993-2004). Articles and resources are placed directly on the website and the letter draws attention to the new material. The editor, Ruth Reardon, can be contacted by email to aifreardon@talk21.com

For international news and reports collected together by Melanie Finch go to: www.interchurchfamilies.org/intl/index.shtm

Cardinal Kasper's vade mecum on Spiritual Ecumenism

The 2003 Plenary Meeting of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity focused on the theme of 'spiritual ecumenism' and asked for a handbook or *vademecum* to be prepared on this topic. The handbook has now appeared, and we reprint from it the section on 'Mixed Marriage Families', setting this in the context of the whole text.

The Handbook speaks of the intrinsic value of interchurch families, and the contributions they can make to their respective communities as they live out their Christian discipleship faithfully and creatively. Groups for mutual support and for the support of other mixed marriage couples are encouraged, and interchurch families are to be invited to study and make known the results of ecumenical dialogue.

Sacramentum Caritatis and the 2005 Synod

This documentary piece traces the background to the

section on eucharistic sharing in the recent Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*, a section of great practical relevance for interchurch families. It gives the full text of an important intervention by Cardinal Kasper in the 2005 Synod of Bishops, as well as the relevant sections from the Propositions of the Synod and that of Pope Benedict's *Sacramentum Caritatis* based on the Synod's work.

The main reference given for the conditions for the admission of other Christians to communion on the Catholic Church in cases of need are those of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and its Compendium. This is encouraging for interchurch families. Like Pope John Paul's *Ut Unum Sint* in 1995, they omit the condition about 'having no access to own minister'. (These texts are also given.)

An Interchurch Marriage

Martin and Ruth Reardon were unlikely ever to have met had it not been for the calling of the Second Vatican Council by Pope John XXIII. This article taken from a special number of *The Way* on 'Relationships in God' tells the story.

Fifth John Coventry Memorial Lecture

The President of the Baptist World Alliance, the Revd David Coffey, gave the John Coventry Memorial Lecture at Heythrop College, London, on 17 February 2007, entitled 'Listening to the Voices of the World Church'. We are grateful to be able to give the text of his lecture here.

Transfiguration: a homily

The same day Fr Robert Murray SJ preached for interchurch couples; we are glad to give his text.

New on the website:

- **Spiritual Ecumenism: Cardinal Kasper**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2007/ifir06-200704kasper.pdf
- **Sacramentum Caritatis**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2007/ifir06-200704synod.pdf
- **An Interchurch Marriage**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2007/ifir06-200704reardon.pdf
- **John Coventry Memorial Lecture**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2007/ifir06-200704coffey.pdf
- **Transfiguration – a Homily**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2007/ifir06-200704murray.pdf