

INTERCHURCH FAMILIES: ISSUES AND REFLECTIONS (IFIR) is an email newsletter compiled once or twice each year. You can subscribe to it free by sending an email to ray.temmerman@shaw.ca. In the email, ask to be added to the IFIR list. 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.shtml.

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 (1993-2004). Articles and resources are placed directly on the website and the letter draws attention to the new material. If you cannot access the internet you can request paper copies from the editor, Ruth Reardon (Little School House, High Street, Turvey, Bedford MK43 8DB, UK: aifreardon@talk21.com)

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

Pope Benedict XVI: 'Laboratories of Unity'
In May 2006 Pope Benedict made an important statement about interchurch families, whom he referred to as becoming 'laboratories (or workshops) of unity'. In this IFIR we give a short article on his text taken from *One in Christ*.

Interchurch Families in New Zealand
When Sally and John Faisandier returned from the International Conference of Interchurch Families held in Newcastle, Australia, in 2005, they set out to spread the word about what they had discovered through talking to other couples. They wrote three articles for *Wel-com*, the newspaper published by the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington. These articles (which we have permission to publish in IFIR) won a best feature award in an Australasian Catholic Newspaper competition.

'Ecumenism of Life as a Challenge for Academic Theology':

the 14th Academic Consultation of Societas Oecumenica, Prague, 17-22 August 2006

This consultation was of particular interest to interchurch families, and we report on it here from that perspective. We are grateful to have permission from the Societas Oecumenica to give the texts of three papers from the consultation. The first is a main lecture by Fr René Beaupère, OP, on 'Interchurch Families: Gift and Challenge'. The other two are seminar papers, one by Professor Thomas Knieps Port-le-Roi of Louvain University on 'domestic church', and the other by Ruth Reardon on 'double belonging'.

Catholic Theological Society of America

In June 2005 the CTSA conference included a session on interchurch families. It was convened by Fr George Kilcourse of Bellarmine University, Louisville, and the two presenters were Professor Ralph Del Colle of Marquette University and Professor Janice Thompson, now of King's College, Pennsylvania. We are grateful for permission to publish George Kilcourse's account of the session from the Proceedings of the CTSA, and the texts of the two presenters.

New on the website:

- **Pope Benedict XVI on Interchurch Families**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2006/ifir05-200611BenedictXVI.shtml
- **Interchurch Families in New Zealand**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2006/ifir05-200611Faisandier.shtml
- **Societas Oecumenica, Prague, Aug.2006: a report**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2006/ifir05-200611socioecreport.shtml
- **Societas Oecumenica: René Beaupère OP**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2006/ifir05-200611socioecbeaupere.shtml
- **Societas Oecumenica: Thomas Knieps Port-le-Roi**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2006/ifir05-200611socioeknieps.pdf
- **Societas Oecumenica: Ruth Reardon**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2006/ifir05-200611socioecreardon.pdf
- **Catholic Theological Society of America: a report**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2006/ifir05-200611reportkilcourse.shtml
- **CTSA Interchurch Families: Ralph Del Colle**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2006/ifir05-200611ctsadelcolle.pdf
- **CTSA Interchurch Families: Janice Thompson**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2006/ifir05-200611ctsathompson.pdf