

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) and the email newsletter Issues, Reflections, News (2004-5). 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

INTERCHURCH FAMILIES: DOMESTIC CHURCHES

In the last number of IFIR we included a presentation entitled 'Are Interchurch Families Domestic Churches?' given by Professor Thomas Knieps Portle-Roi of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, at the Third European Ecumenical Assembly held in Sibiu, Romania, in 2007. The author is continuing to work on this subject, and we are happy to be able to offer a further paper.

This was presented to the 40th Anniversary Annual Conference of the Association of Interchurch Families, held in Swanwick, England in August 2008. It drew on some of the experiences of interchurch families that had been collected at England and the United States, as well as continuing theological reflection on the topic. The title was: 'Being One at Home': Interchurch Families as Domestic Church'.

FORTY YEARS ON

Following the 40th Anniversary Conference a brief report was written by Ruth Reardon for the Catholic ecumenical journal *One in Christ*, which she edited in the 1960s (*One in Christ* 42, 2 Winter 2008). This journal gave considerable attention to developments in relation to mixed marriages in the 1960s.

INTERCHURCH FAMILIES IN EASTERN EUROPE

Considerable interest is being shown in interchurch marriages in Eastern Europe at present. The annual meeting of the Presidents of the Bishops' Conferences of South-East Europe, held in Sophia, Bulgaria in the spring of 2008 was devoted mainly to consideration of the formation of engaged couples and the spiritual accompaniment of married couples, both interchurch and interfaith. We give the text of the report issued at the end of the meeting, as it relates to such families.

In July 2008 an international seminar on mixed marriages took place in Lviv, Ukraine, jointly organised by the Centre St Irénée at Lyon and the Ecumenical Institute of the Catholic University of the Ukraine. We give an English translation of the final reflections on the conference by Fr René Beaupère OP of the Centre St Irénée.

IARCCUM IN PRACTICE

Finally, we give the text of a speech made to the General Synod of the Church of England in February 2008 by a member of an interchurch family. She suggested that when churches try to implement the IARCCUM recommendations at local level, interchurch families could be a valuable resource.

New on the website:

- **One at home: being domestic church**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2008/ifir08-200810knieps.pdf
- **Forty years on: 1968-2008**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2008/ifir08-200810reardon.pdf
- **Bishops' Conference of South-East Europe**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2008/ifir08-200810sophia.pdf
- **Reflections on leaving Lviv**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2008/ifir08-200810beaupere.pdf
- **Reception of the IARCCUM Report**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2008/ifir08-200810docherty.pdf