

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

A conference on 'The Household of God and Local Households: Revisiting the Domestic Church' was held at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, 10-13 March 2010. The subject is significant for interchurch families, not least because when a representative group visited the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in October 2005, we were encouraged to explore the concept of the domestic church as lived by interchurch families. Might this concept help to describe the situation and help the self-understanding of interchurch families?

Thomas Knieps Port-le-Roi, holder of the then recently-established Chair for the Study of Marriage and Spirituality at the University of Leuven agreed to co-ordinate such a study for us. For the past few years he has been active in forwarding this project, presenting a paper at the Societas Oecumenica meeting in Prague in 2006 (IFIR 5, November 06), at Sibiu during the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in 2007 (IFIR 7, October 07), and at the British Interchurch Families Conference at Swanwick in 2008 (IFIR 8, October 08).

He also gave a paper at the Louvain Encounters in Systematic Theology (LEST) in November 2007: 'Interchurch Families: a Test Case for the Domestic Church'. This will be published in *Believing in Community: Ecumenical Reflections on the Church*, edited by P.de Mey, Leuven: Peeters (forthcoming). We have permission to share it here.

The March 2010 Leuven conference was organised by Thomas Knieps on behalf of the International Academy for Marital Spirituality, and co-organised by the Ecclesiological Investigations International Research Network and also the Centre for Ecumenical Research at Leuven. Marriage and family life workers were mixed in with theologians, and a small group of interchurch family representatives came from Australia, Canada, the United States, and various countries of Europe. Short papers on interchurch families were given in the context of the conference (by George Kilcourse, Bernard Prusak, Mary Marrocco, Jean-Baptiste Lipp, Ray Temmerman), and we hope to be able to include these in a future number of IFIR. We want to give too an indication of how valuable the whole conference was for interchurch families' understanding of themselves as domestic church.

Also in this number of IFIR:

'Spiritual Ecumenism in Interchurch Marital Spirituality' by Ruth Reardon, a contribution to the *Companion to Marital Spirituality* edited by Thomas Knieps and Monica Sandor, Leuven: Peeters, 2008;

'Toward a Language of Faithful Possibilities: Interchurch Families and Receptive Ecumenism', given by Ray Temmerman at the Second Conference on Receptive Ecumenism, Durham, England, 2009;

'The Fellowship of the Baptized': the John Coventry Memorial Address given by the Most Revd Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, in London, England, 20 March 2010

New on the website:

- **A test case for the Domestic Church**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2010/ifir10-201004knieps.pdf
- **Spiritual Ecumenism in Marital Spirituality**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2010/ifir10-201004reardon.pdf
- **Toward a Language of Faithful Possibilities**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2010/ifir10-201004temmerman.pdf
- **Archbishop Rowan Williams**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2010/ifir10-201004williams.pdf