



Office of the Bishop

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**church of phoenix**

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My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in America*, Pope John Paul II writes, “Between the Catholic Church and the other Christian Churches and Ecclesial Communities there exists a drive towards communion rooted in the Baptism which each administers. It is a drive nourished by prayer, Dialogue and joint action.” (Para. 49) The Holy Father continues by saying, “As for non-Christian religions, the Catholic Church rejects nothing in them which is true and holy.” (Para. 51)

I am grateful for the work of the Diocesan Commission on Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs which has assisted me in the preparation of the document, *In Search of Unity: Guidelines and Resources for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in the Diocese of Phoenix*, which I formally promulgate for use in the Diocese of Phoenix with this letter.

It is my hope that this resource will be helpful in answering some frequently asked questions about what is appropriate and proper when addressing ecumenical and interreligious issues in pastoral situations. It should also be helpful by stressing the Church’s commitment to the ongoing work of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue. While the primary focus of the document is on ecumenical relationships and practices, the information on resources and basic principles for interreligious dialogue should be helpful.

Let us continue to pray, as Jesus prayed, that those who profess faith in him “may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you . . . that the world may believe that you sent me.” (Jn. 17:21) And, for the good of all humanity, that greater understanding and cooperation in efforts to work for justice and peace will be promoted among all people of good will whose hearts are open to the inspiration of God’s Holy Spirit.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Thomas J. Olmsted  
Bishop of Phoenix