

Receiving the Gift: Interchurch Families as Ecumenical Ground and Resource.

Statements produced as a fruit of formal ecumenical dialogue need fertile ground to receive them, if they are to take root and grow.

Where is such ground to be found?

Mixed-religion couples compose a far greater portion of society than church records indicate. While many of these couples may be outside the awareness of their churches, their self-identification makes them prime candidates to have their mixed religion recognized, not as problem but as gift to their churches and the Church, the ground which can receive the fruit of ecumenical dialogue.

Interchurch couples, a subset of that cohort, whose lives of faith depend on receiving the gift of their spouse's church, are gift to their churches by way of resources for reception and for connecting with, recognizing and calling forth the mixed-religion couples in their midst.

Mixed-religion couples, and especially interchurch couples, hold two church traditions within their marriage. As they are recognized for practicing their faith within both their traditions, they become sacraments of unity, healing balm for their churches which are the estranged members of the Body of Christ, enabling these members to receive each other into communion. They become gift to their churches and the Church.

Let us explore, recognize, open, and receive the gift. Let us invite mixed-religion families to tell their story.

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