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way one — of Churches and ecclesial communities; nor are they free to hold that today the Church of Christ nowhere really exists, and must be considered only as a goal which all Churches and ecclesial communities must strive to reach”. ... The lack of unity among Christians is certainly a wound for the Church; not in the sense that she is deprived of her unity, but “in that it hinders the complete fulfilment of her universality in history”.

VI. The Church and the Other Religions in Relation to Salvation

... 22. With the coming of the Saviour Jesus Christ, God has willed that the Church founded by him be the instrument for the salvation of all humanity (cf. Acts 17:30-31).90 This truth of faith does not lessen the sincere respect which the Church has for the religions of the world, but at the same time, it rules out, in a radical way, that mentality of indifference “characterized by a religious relativism which leads to the belief that ‘one religion is as good as another’”. If it is true that the followers of other religions can receive divine grace, it is also certain that objectively speaking they are in a gravely deficient situation in comparison with those who, in the Church, have the fullness of the means of salvation. ...

Joseph Card. Ratzinger, Prefect

Tarcisio Bertone, S.D.B., Archbishop Emeritus of Vercelli, Secretary



Book Reviews & Recommended Reading

The English version of the book we have all been waiting for has finally arrived: Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger’s *The Spirit of the Liturgy*. He chose the title from a book of the same name by Fr. Romano Guardini. Just as Fr. Guardini published his volume to encourage the liturgical movement of his time, so to, Cardinal Ratzinger hopes to do the same by the publication of this new volume. From the present day vantage point he is able to re-launch the liturgical movement, while at one and the same time both citing its blessings and clearly demonstrating some of the imbalances which surely need correction.

Perhaps most important of all is the emphasis he places on the sacred liturgy as part of apostolic tradition. Thus he emphasizes the delicacy with which it must be approached, lest we tamper unnecessarily with the great patriarchal liturgical rites of the Church.

Among other things he deals with are:

The proper orientation of the altar;

The role of silence in the liturgy, even recommending it for the Canon of the Mass;

The tendency to treat the liturgy not as a given, but as a field for constant committee work, reducing it to the level of a “show”, featuring applause at the various acts, so out of tune with the true spirit of the liturgy;

One cannot recommend highly enough the reading of this relatively short work. The benefits to the reader will be immense. If I could afford to I would send a copy to every cleric in the Church. (Fr. Ashley)

This book is available from Neri Publications (see facing page)