

Bishop Fabbro's homily notes – Friday AM chapel, CCC 70th Anniversary Assembly

On this date, November 21, in 1964, Pope Paul VI promulgated the Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio).

- It formally brought the Catholic Church into the ecumenical movement.
- The Decree marked a major shift for our Church and set in motion a series of ecumenical dialogues.

The Second Vatican Council called our Church to be in dialogue – with other religions, with other communities and with the world.

-I noticed that the theme of the first CCC Assembly, in 1969, was: “Count us in! Christians in the Radical 70s.”

- Vatican II was saying: “Count us in!”
- When it comes to the major issues that our society is addressing – Count us in!
- Wherever there are cries for justice – Count us in!
- If we are to witness to the Gospel, we need to be present in our world.
- So, we need to be in dialogue with others.

The vision of a “Church in dialogue” is inspired by this passage from John's Gospel that we have just listened to.

- Jesus prayed to his Father: “that they may be one, as we are one.”
- In Christ, God has entered into a saving dialogue with us.
- God speaks to us – he engages us and wants us to respond, to enter into a relationship with him.
- A living, personal relationship with our God is the foundation of all that we do in the CCC.

In 1997, Catholics became members of the CCC based on this vision of a Church in dialogue.

- For us, dialogue does not mean a negotiation, or an accommodation, or a compromise of the truth.
- Together, in dialogue, we stand before Christ in a “joint quest for truth.”

On the CCC, we gather to dialogue, to pray, to give a common witness and to carry out a common mission.

- We learn from one another and make room for the other's point of view.

-As Pope Francis has pointed out: dialogue is not just about being better informed about others but reaping what the Holy Spirit has sown in other churches, which is a gift for us.

-It is respecting other churches, valuing them, getting to know them and understand them.

-It is appreciating our differences and diversity and the unique gifts we bring to one another.

Unity is a gift of God that he entrusts to us through the Holy Spirit.

-He calls us to work for reconciliation and for the unity he desires.

-On the 70th anniversary of the CCC, let us pray for one another and commit ourselves anew to this sacred task.