

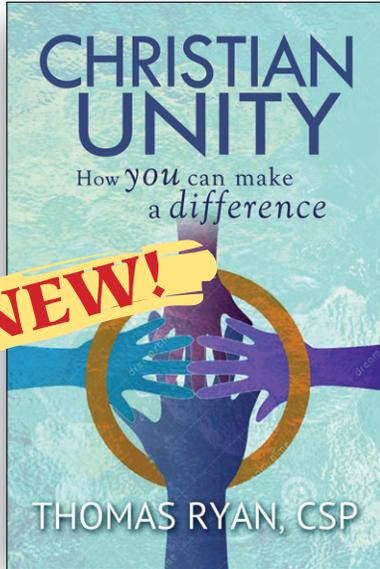
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Christian Unity

How You Can Make a Difference

Thomas Ryan, CSP

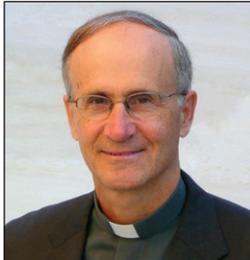
In this inspirational book, Fr. Thomas Ryan harvests his forty years of experience in the work for Christian unity, putting it on the table for popular consumption and to renew energy for the cause. In addition, he gives voice to the experience of others from around the continent and beyond who have shared the journey with in-depth experience in particular domains of ecumenical endeavor. A parish priest in Los Angeles. A couple who have exercised leadership in the Canadian Association of Interchurch Families. Another couple whose lives have been enriched and faith deepened through their collaboration in social action projects with other local churches in Virginia. A group of men in Portland, Oregon, who bring together community leaders in the public, private and nonprofit sectors to support and encourage one another in their personal faith journeys and to find Christian community in a secular society.

Ryan recounts stories as well of the growing number of lay movements and institutes of consecrated life who carry the work for unity at their core, such as Focolare and the Community of Sant'Egidio. Similarly, the significant contribution monastic and religious communities and societies of apostolic life can make is exemplified in the stories of Taizé and Bose, the Paulists, Atonement Friars, Glenmary Missioners, and Jesuits. The "new monastics" who are springing up within a variety of Protestant traditions in North America are also featured. All of the above are lifted up as exemplifications that our bonds with one another in the body of Christ are being experienced and manifested in new ways. We are witnessing the emergence of a new reality: the priority of Christian community over a purely doctrinal approach. And the implications are both profound and exciting. The question framed for the reader is: If you are not already doing so, how might you participate and make a difference there, where you are?

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Thomas Ryan, CSP, has been dedicated to the work for Christian unity since 1974. He is founder-director of the Paulist North American Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. He is the author of numerous articles and fifteen books.

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“A timely and invaluable resource for all those engaged in teaching and ecumenical formation, for students of theology, Christian ministers, and inquiring Christians who take seriously the growing need for a common witness of the churches in our time ‘so that the world might believe.’”

—Dr. Catherine Clifford, St. Paul’s University, Ottawa, ON

“This book reinforces Tom Ryan’s reputation as an outstanding interpreter of ecumenism for people in the pews. Using personal stories and concrete recommendations, he shows how the effort to realize unity among Christians can come alive in congregations and schools of theology, in social action groups and the lives of interchurch families.”

—Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, former General Secretary of U.S. National Council of Churches

“Paulist Father Thomas Ryan, a skilled and wise ecumenist, has prepared an extraordinarily useful, up-to-date, and informative resource showing Christians how, in so many ways, they can make a difference in realizing the prayer of Jesus that they may be one.”

—Dr. John Borelli, Georgetown University

“Fr. Ryan offers specific, attainable ideas for living out Jesus’ ‘twin imperatives’ of mission and unity. I especially commend it for parish study groups who want to develop or deepen their engagement with other parts of the Christian family.”

—Dr. Mitzi J. Budde, president, North American Academy of Ecumenists (2013–2015)
