

brother, it is not against my brother but for him. I do not want him to be disinherited; I do not want to be the sole possessor, for I know that what I possess will not be diminished if many possess it with me. What I possess is called charity, and that grows larger and larger the more numerous the possessors.



EXTRACT

DR OLIVER TOMPKINS, formerly a high authority in the Ecumenical Movement and now Bishop of Bristol, wrote as follows in an article in the *Church Times*, August 22, 1958, which bore the title *Ten Years of the World Council of Churches; a permanent feature of the Christian landscape*. His words corroborate the verdict of the Rev. Francis House in his article *Roman Catholic Ecumenism* printed elsewhere in this number.

'One of the most significant testimonies that the World Council must be thought of as a permanent feature of the Christian landscape may well be the seriousness with which it is treated by the Church of Rome, which is not wont to waste words upon phenomena that it expects to fade. It is probably true to say that Roman Catholics have produced a greater volume of serious, informed and pertinent comment upon the World Council than have the theologians in the bodies which actually belong to it.

'Most weighty, because most official, is the *Instruction of the Holy Office to Local Ordinaries*, dated December 20, 1949, which Fr Boyer, the editor of *Unitas*, described as being, for Roman Catholics, 'the great charter of unionist activity'. Since then many careful studies have been published, among the more recent and more solid being Gustave Thils' *Histoire Doctrinale du Mouvement Œcuménique*; George H. Tavard's *The Catholic Approach to Protestantism*; and, by Edward Duff, S.J., *The Social Teaching of the W.C.C.*—and a good deal more, mostly in French and German.

'Non-Roman theologians have yet to catch up with such writers in analysing the consequences, for a theology of the Church, of the deep degree of unity which their common profession of faith in the deity of Jesus Christ (the "basis" of the W.C.C.) confers upon a wide range of "separated Christians".'