



The Holy See

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II
TO A MIXED WORKING-GROUP COORDINATING
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
AND THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

To His Excellency

Monsignor RAMON TORRELLA CASCANTE

Vice-President of the Secretariat for the Unity of Christians

As the Mixed Working-Group of the World Council of Churches and our Secretariat for Unity is about to hold its first meeting since my election to the see of Rome, I am anxious to inform it, through you, of my desire to see the effort intensified with a view to hastening the re-establishment of unity among all Christians. It is urgent for us, in fact, to be able in full agreement to bear witness to our faith in Christ and his work of salvation. But even now, before this unity of faith, sacramental life, and hierarchical ties is re-established, we must find, in all loyalty to our present real situation, the ways that will make it possible to bear witness to the faith we already have in common, and to the incomplete but real communion that already unites us in Christ and the mystery of his Church. For this purpose I hope you will be able to find how to ensure a growing collaboration in all the fields in which that is now possible between the Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches.

I ask the Holy Spirit to give you the lucidity, the imagination, the prudence, and the courage necessary to forge ahead.

From the Vatican, 23 February 1979.

