

## It's a long walk for churches to come to full communion

**The Editor:** Rev. Don Bolen rightly describes the road to full communion among the Christian churches as "a long walk" (Jan. 31). It seems to me the same can be said of the quest for full communion within the Roman Catholic Church.

Pope John Paul has said that the great challenge of the new millennium is "to make the church the home and the school of communion." The two words — "home" and "school" — suggest something already existing (the home) but not yet fully realized and still to be learned (the school).

Certainly it is recognized that

the formal requirements for full communion do exist within the Catholic Church. But communion involves much more than consensus on key theological matters. In its fullness, communion is a rich sharing of life that must be continually discovered and deepened. It is a way of relating and living that can only be learned by the Christian faithful in the school of their life together.

Learning of the way of communion in our own Catholic parishes and communities is just as much "a long walk" as is the quest for unity among the churches. Just

as we are learning a way of mutual respect and dialogue in our exchanges with other Christians and people of other faiths, we must do the same in our relations with Catholic brothers and sisters.

We must also acquire the wise and patient perspective in our quest for communion within the Catholic Church that Bolen brings to the long walk of ecumenism — there is great value in the walk itself. Communion, although always a gift of the Spirit, must ever be sought with the patience and humility of the pilgrim. — **Ted Wood, Winnipeg**

## Former D&P board member addresses 'unfortunate letter'

**The Editor:** Tom Schuck's letter to the Prairie Messenger (Feb. 6) was most unfortunate, especially as it came at a time when the church was nearing the beginning of the Share Lent program.

If one of D&P's political causes (Schuck's statement) is to help poverty-stricken families in the developing world provide themselves with a decent standard of the basic necessities of life, most people would agree that this is a good political endeavour. It would also be in line with Gospel teaching.

Schuck also states that D&P "paid" over \$100,000 to a pro-abortion March for Women. His allegation made it appear that funds contributed by D&P supporters was paid directly to a pro-abortion group.

This was not the case. I was on the national board at the time

when the March for Women took place. After a great deal of soul-searching by D&P's board of directors — including two representatives from the CCCB — a decision was made by the board of the organization administration — not the administration — to support the March for Women.

D&P could not in good conscience avoid an opportunity to support a global movement firstly to appeal to world leaders to eliminate poverty and to ensure fair distribution of the planet's resources between the rich and the poor and, secondly, eliminate violence against women and ensure equality between men and women.

Not supporting the march would be tantamount to not going to mass on Sunday, with the excuse that there may be some sinners present.

And the \$130,000 to support

"radicals" at the Quebec Summit? I was there. Be quite assured that 99 per cent or more of the people at that massive gathering were non-violent radicals. The only people who attended the Quebec Summit armed with weapons were the police and the army.

We live in a world rife with violent armed conflict, where there are approximately 30,000 children dying every day because of war, hunger and disease, and where the earth's resources are being channelled into constantly merging corporate global entities.

Our troubled world is desperately in need of leaders who are non-violent radical activists, leaders who are inspired by the love of peace and concern for God's people who include the poor and oppressed of the world, as our Saviour, Jesus Christ taught us.

We need stewards of the earth who will struggle to change our present global economic policies, which seem to be structured on competition, greed and acquisition.

And, believe or not, it's legal. — **Leo Kurtenbach, Cudworth, Sask.**

## Queen's House

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