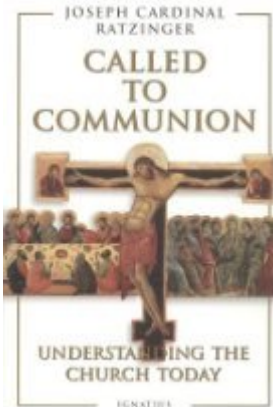


Book Review

By Barbara de Catanzaro



That We May Be One:

A Review of Called to Communion: Understanding the Church Today

Written by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)
Translated by Adrian Walker, 1991

“Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one” (John 17:11b).

Reviews by clergy and academics of Called to Communion speak of the wisdom and insight offered; rather providentially, given the Cardinal’s eventual appointment as our Bishop of Rome.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, defended and reaffirmed Catholic doctrine tirelessly. Having been a professor for twenty-six years, some of his writings can be very cerebral and rather challenging to comprehend. I found the Cardinal’s Called to Communion, however, easy to understand and had not realized just how logical the Catholic faith is.

The Cardinal outlines the New Testament witness of the Church’s origin; illustrates the primacy of Peter; the unity of the Church; and talks at length of the essence of the priesthood. One cannot help but agree with the need for a common centre for Christianity. While defending the Church through Scripture, our new pope demonstrates an understanding of the confused ecclesial consciousness of the general public. Indeed, as the Cardinal hoped for, this small volume brings clarity to key issues of the Church today.

The man who now leads the Catholic faithful believes that it is the Church’s mission to selflessly proclamation that we are of *Christ’s* Church - not *ours* and of the importance, as the Johannine letter declares, that we be One (cf. Jn 17:11b).

Called to Communion is available at the Diocesan St. Therese of Lisieux Library. Barbara de Catanzaro is a volunteer at the library.