

The Society for Ecumenical Studies

Catholic and Ecumenical

Frederick M Bliss SM, Sheed and Ward 1999

A review by David Carter, 2000

This excellent short introduction to ecumenism was, as its title suggests, written primarily for Roman Catholics, to explain to them how and why their church's stance *vis à vis* the rest of Christendom has undergone such a sea change in the later years of the twentieth century. Non-Catholics will also find it illuminating on this subject. There can be few better succinct accounts of the impact of Vatican II in this respect. Fr Bliss also surveys the state of the current dialogues with other churches. He is particularly good on the question of Catholic-Orthodox relationships, illustrating the cultural complexities involved. This is a deeply thoughtful and spiritual book, entirely meriting the commendation in the foreword by Fr Jim Puglisi of the Centro Pro Unione.