

The Society for Ecumenical Studies

Catholic-Lutheran Relations Three Decades after Vatican II

Papers of the Conference at the International Bridgettine Centre

Peter Norgaard-Hojen, editor

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A review by David Carter, March 1998

Unlike most of the books that I review for the Society, this book was not sent to me for a formal review; rather, I chanced upon it when browsing. It contains the papers of a conference held to celebrate the achievements of and review the prospects for the Lutheran-Catholic dialogue. That dialogue was the first established in the wake of Vatican II. It has produced much impressive work. It is relatively little known in this country. Much of the material produced in it and the subsequent scholarly assessment is not easily accessible. This volume of essays is, therefore, useful in helping the ecumenist who is not expert in Lutheran-Catholic matters to track its progress. It is welcome for that reason; also on account of its attractive presentation. It contains an essay by Mary Tanner assessing the trilateral Anglican-Lutheran-Catholic relationship. This is a valuable reminder to us that bilateral dialogues always have wider implications. They need to learn from achievements elsewhere and contribute to them.