

Ecumenism and interfaith outreach are central to our catholicity. (Besides this quote from Ron's article in Sr. Katharina Schuth's book, see below for six earlier columns on Christian Unity).

The Good Shepherd seeks relentlessly and lovingly after "those other sheep who are not of this flock."

Seminarians must be trained to radiate this kind of universality. Very practically, this means challenging them more strongly and teaching them to be more sensitive to ecumenism and interfaith dialogue and cooperation. Too often today, these sensitivities are seen as optional to the priest's ministry.

Ecumenism and interfaith outreach are central to our catholicity and not a matter of choosing to be involved depending upon one's time, temperament, and energy.

I highlight this because I fear indifference to ecumenism and interfaith outreach might be more the norm than the exception. At the school where I teach, we host an evening of prayer for church unity each January during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We have more than one hundred diocesan and religious seminarians studying at our school and normally not a single seminarian shows up for this ecumenical event. It is not that these seminarians are anti-ecumenical; it is rather that the whole issue of other churches and other religions is simply not on their radar screens. We must do a better job of sensitizing seminarians in this area.

The same holds true for working with laity and working with women (p. 127, "Toward a Spirituality of Ecclesial Leadership," Ron Rolheiser, OMI, in Sr. Katarina Schuth, OSF, Seminary Formation (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2016). Sr. Katarina documents the reduction of courses in ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, from its heyday following Vatican II, to 2016: pp.30- 31, 38, 106, 109, 113, 126-27.

[April 27, 2015, Praying for Those Not of This Fold](#)

[April 13, 2015, Principles for Interfaith Dialogue](#)

[Jan. 19, 2014, The Imperative for Wholeness Inside Christ](#)

[Jan. 27, 2013, Ecumenism--Our Neglected Mandate](#)

[Jan. 29, 2012, Other Sheep Not of This Fold](#)

[March 14, 2010, The Imperative](#)