

7. The Father of Modern Ecumenism:  
Patriarch Joseph Cardinal Slipyi  
(1892 - 1984): A Biblio-Biographical Sketch



Originally published in *Bohoslovia* 48(1984), pp. 27-42.

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There are many different types of ecumenists. Some have become ecumenists simply by an election or appointment, to fill a position in modern church life for the purpose of fostering good relations between existing Churches. Some have been moved by the love of Christian unity and by a strong desire to reunite the Mystical Body of Christ. And there are those who have been influenced by their scholarly efforts and intellectual endowments to seek the unity of the divinely revealed truth in the plurality of its interpretations. Still others have been moved to work towards unity by their aesthetic sense, or by the beauty of church art, worship, ritual, sacraments, spirituality, and mysticism — which still exists in divided Christendom. There are also those who have a very keen social consciousness, and work towards peace and social justice within the context of collaborating Churches or communities. Finally, there are those who have been forced by adverse political and historical circumstances to become prophets, martyrs, or confessors for Christian unity. These have been called to witness to the unity of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity by their humiliation, persecution, imprisonment, suffering and blood.

There have been only a very few eminent ecumenists — charismatics of Church unity — who, in their life work, effort and suffering, have exhibited all of the above mentioned characteristics of ecumenists. In a unique position among them stands the Confessor of the Faith, the late Patriarch Joseph Cardinal Slipyj (Kobernyckyj-Dyckovskyy). A partial record of the life, work and achievements of this great man is to be found in the thirteen volumes of his collected works, the titles of which vary somewhat — the variation reflecting the turbulent church-political situation of the post-Vatican II era. They are as follows:

*Tvory Kard. Josyfa Verkhovnoho Arkhyiepyskopa. Opera Omnia Card. Josephi (Slipyj-Kobernyckyj-Dyčkovskyy) Archiepiscopi Maioris*, compiled by Johannes Choma *et al.* Vol. I (Romae: Universitas Catholica Ucrainorum a S. Clemente Papa, 1968), 423 pp.

