



THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL
FOR PROMOTING
CHRISTIAN UNITY



Bishop Brian Farrell
Secretary

Born in Ireland, Bishop Farrell studied for the Catholic priesthood in Spain, Italy and the United States, and was ordained in 1969. After ministry in various pastoral roles and in seminary formation, mostly in the United States, he entered the service of the Vatican Secretariat of State in 1981. He earned a doctorate in theology from the Gregorian University in 1983, with a thesis on sacramental relations between divided Christians. In December 2002 he was appointed titular bishop of Abitinae and Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, as well as Vice-President of the Holy See's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. In this capacity he organizes the activities of the Council, in particular the various international theological dialogues with ecumenical partners. He personally takes part in some of these international dialogues and frequently participates in official visits and delegations to the various Christian Churches.