

Recently, there has been a lot of controversy regarding "English bashing". This is due to the stormy Anglo-Irish and Anglo-Celtic, in general, relationship, going back over 1600 years of conflict. I must admit that I have been guilty of "English bashing" myself; but I believe that the time for reconciliation has come.

As a Catholic Christian, I believe that all people are the children of God and all people on this planet are our brothers and sisters, regardless of race, nationality or ethnic background.

In recent years, Ireland has developed one of the most vibrant and fastest growing economies and standards of living, in Europe, earning her the nickname of "the Celtic Tiger". With the help of the United States and cooperation of the United Kingdom, and "cooler heads", in both the Republic and Ulster, great progress has been made in the peace process. We can only pray that this will continue and that in the not so distant future, a re-united Ireland, with equality for all her people, regardless of religious belief, may be possible.

In spite of the troubled times that we live in, the European Continent, including the British Isles, stands on the verge of a future with exciting possibilities. Ireland, the United Kingdom, and many other nations now belong to the European Union; and in their troubled times, it is important for the civilized nations of the world to stand together against the foe that we are now fighting. The attack of Sept.11, 2001, was not only an attack on the United States, but an attack on all the civilized nations of the world.

I pray that the United Kingdom will have the vision and commitment to recognize their mistakes of the past and will regard the Irish and other Celtic peoples as equal partners, working for the prosperity and happiness of all. Only then can we hope for, not only a re-united Ireland, but for a United States of Europe, as well, united as one, but recognizing and honoring the cultural differences of all.

Article submitted by Kirk Wright June 7th 2005