

Prayer of St Francis  
(Another Deani)

ANGELUS.

When people talk about, or hear about "the Church", it's most usually still not the Church they understand at all but rather church officials, the hierarchy, or spokesmen. The idea that the Church is all Christians isn't a new idea, yet it's curious how hard it is for people in and out of the Church to accept this notion. Sometimes it even seems like a deliberate mis-understanding, especially as it's so much easier to put the Church into convenient categories in this way — it fits ordinary patterns, of sociology or what have you. But really it's not as simple as that. And all of us still have a lot to learn about who we are, as Christians in the world. I'd like to quote for you today from the writings of a contemporary theologian, Karl Rahner, who's particularly concerned with trying to express what the Church is in today's world: he's not always easy to understand, and unfortunately has not always been too well served by his English translators. But his piece deserves some thought and reflection, and perhaps it may help you to understand, to pray and to act as a member of Christ, not just a statistic with no voice, an anonymous cipher in some sociological abstraction.

QQ. The Tablet 21 June 75 p590

And now a song for today:

In love 1<sup>2</sup>

"Children of the Lord"

MUSIC. PRAYERS

St Katerine of Siena, another in the series of women saints for 400 years, written and read by Patricia Porter TAPE