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***Maximum Illud: Challenges Then, Challenges for the Church Today***

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**Abstract**

The paper presents the challenging context in which *Maximum Illud*, the first modern mission encyclical was written, and then briefly summarizes its four main points. A third section reflects on four points that are challenges to mission today and that are related to, but quite different from, the original encyclical. These are:

- (1) The missionary nature of the church wherever it finds itself;
- (2) Greater boldness and creativity in the process of inculturation;
- (3) A rethinking of the church's theology of ministry;
- (4) A recognition of the radical catholicity of the church.