

## **SUMMARY Maffeis**

*The meaning of the statement that the Church of Christ "subsistit in" the Roman Catholic Church (Lumen gentium 8) has been highly controversial in the theological debate of the last decades and its different interpretations reflect the conflicting hermeneutics of the Second Vatican Council. The article gives an account of the discussion, starting with a description of the redactional stages of the formula, from the first draft of the Dogmatic Constitution in the Church to the final text. Then the theological interpretations of the textual evidence are considered, with a critical evaluation of the arguments proposed in favour of the sheer identity between the Church of Christ and the Roman Catholic Church, of their non-exclusive identity, and of the idea of an historical existence of a metahistorical reality.*