



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARCHBISHOP ROACH HAILS LUTHERAN MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT

WASHINGTON--The president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops hailed a merger decision by three Lutheran denominations as a "significant step in the broader movement of ecumenism."

"Roman Catholics join their Lutheran brothers and sisters in rejoicing at this new and important development," said Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

"Although it is of immediate concern to Lutherans, I believe it represents another significant step in the broader movement of ecumenism. I congratulate those who participated in this historic decision, and I renew my prayers for the speedy coming of that full unity among Christians which Christ wills for His Church."

Archbishop Roach made the statement following the announcement that three Lutheran denominations--the Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches--have voted to merge into a single church of five and one half million members.

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