



NEWS

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LUTHERAN-CATHOLIC STATEMENT ON PAPACY
WILL BE EXPLORED IN GUIDELINE SHOWS

NEW YORK--The statement of "common ground" on the difficult issue of papal primacy, issued recently by a group of Lutheran and Roman Catholic theologians, will be explored in a two-part program in the NBC Guideline radio series.

Father John F. Hotchkin, director of the secretariat of the Catholic Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, will be interviewed on the programs, which will be broadcast on successive Sundays, on April 21 and 28.

In discussions beginning in 1965, members of the national Lutheran-Catholic dialogue had found "broad areas of agreement" on such matters as the Nicene Creed, Baptism, the Eucharist, and the Ministry of word and sacrament.

In a 5,000-word Common Statement issued on March 4 of this year, the scholars, while acknowledging "remaining disagreements" and "points yet to be examined," were able to say they had also found "common ground" on the issue of papal primacy.

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2/lutheran-catholic statement

In the Guideline programs, Father Hotchkin will discuss the theological foundation of the statement and its implications for relations between Roman Catholic and Lutherans on the parish level.

"What is most striking about the document," Father Hotchkin said, "is the marked change of attitude it conveys. Far from holding back, the Lutheran participants reveal a real Christian concern for the emergence of a renewed papacy, and Catholics show an equal concern that in the future the papacy may come to be a source of support or service to the Lutheran churches without infringing on their heritage and proper self-direction."

Father William Ayres, coordinator for radio and television in the Rockville Centre, N.Y., diocese, will be the interviewer on the program.

Guideline, a production of the Division for Film and Broadcasting, United States Catholic Conference, is broadcast at 11:07 p.m. in the New York area. Check local listings for time and station.

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