



# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ROMAN CATHOLIC/ORIENTAL ORTHODOX CHURCHES PLAN DECEMBER CONSULTATION

WASHINGTON--The eucharistic theology of liturgy, the Christology of the two sister-churches, and the methodology of the consultation are on the agenda for the third meeting of the Oriental Orthodox/Roman Catholic Consultation (U.S.A.). The meeting will take place in Washington, D.C., in December.

Announcement of the agenda followed the second meeting of the Consultation, held in New York last month at the headquarters of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America. Chaired jointly by the Right Reverend Bishop Papken Varjabedian, the Primate's Legate in Washington, and Auxiliary Bishop J. Francis Stafford of Baltimore, representing the Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), the meeting was devoted to a presentation on the purposes and methodology of the consultation and an overview of the history of the Oriental Orthodox Churches.

The Oriental Orthodox/Roman Catholic Consultation, including all branches of the Oriental Orthodox Churches in this country, was established in New York last January. Co-sponsors

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are the NCCB Committee and the hierarchies of the five Oriental Orthodox Churches--Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian, Indian Malabar, and Syrian.

In addition to the two episcopal co-chairmen, participants in the May meeting were Archbishop Athanasius Samuel of the Syrian Orthodox Church, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, Armenian Orthodox, Father Zaven Arzoumanian, Sts. Sahag and Mesrob church, Wynnewood, N.J., Father Arten Ashjian, St. Gregory the Illuminator church, New York, Karekin Kasparian (Armenian Church), Father Gabriel Abdelsayed (Coptic Church), Abba Laike M. Mandefro (Ethiopian Church), Father John D. Meno (Syrian Church), and Father K. M. Simon (Indian Malabar Church). Roman Catholic participants included Professor Thomas E. Bird, Department of Slavic Languages, Queens College, New York, Father Gabriel Duffy, Holy Redeemer Church, College Park, Md., Father Edward Kilmartin, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame, and Father J. Peter Sheehan, Associate Director of the NCCB Committee.

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