



# NEWS

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**FROM:** William Ryan

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PAPAL PRIMACY AMONG TOPICS DISCUSSED  
AT EASTERN ORTHODOX-CATHOLIC MEETING**

WASHINGTON--The meaning of "apostolicity" of the Church as well as current Catholic and Orthodox literature on papal primacy were topics of the 32nd meeting of the Eastern Orthodox/Roman Catholic Consultation in the U.S.A.

A report on the ecumenical implications of last fall's Extraordinary Synod of Bishops was also given at the meeting, which was held at St. Vladimir's School of Theology in Crestwood, New York, June 2-4.

The Consultation was founded in 1965 to promote reconciliation and mutual understanding between the two sister churches. Orthodox Metropolitan Silas of New Jersey and Roman Catholic Bishop Arthur J. O'Neill of Rockford, Illinois currently preside. Bishop Maximos of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh also attended this meeting as a consultant theologian. In all, some 25 Orthodox and Roman Catholic scholars from various churches and academic centers were present.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

2/32nd meeting

To date, the Consultation has published eight agreed statements and two official reactions to consensus statements, including the Lima report of the World Council of Churches on "Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry." Besides seeking to resolve tensions caused by divergent doctrinal and theological matters in the churches of the East and West, the Consultation tries to advise church leaders on pastoral matters, such as marriages between Orthodox and Roman Catholics.

The U.S. Consultation follows closely the agenda of the International Orthodox/Roman Catholic Consultation, which held its most recent meeting in Bari, Italy (May 29-June 7) to discuss draft statement on "Faith, Sacraments and the Unity of the Church" and on "The Sacrament of Order (Ordination)."

The national consultation will next meet in the fall at St. John's Seminary, Brighton, Mass.

Additional information is available from Joseph Witmer (Roman Catholic), Washington, (202/659-6855) and Father Thomas Fitzgerald (Orthodox), Boston, 617/731-3500.

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