



NEWS

FILE
COPY

DATE: November 5, 1984

FROM: Robert Wonderly

O - 202/659-6700
H - 703/979-3293

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATHOLIC-LUTHERAN DIALOGUE STUDIES JOINT WORD SERVICE

WASHINGTON--A proposed "service of the word" for use by Catholics and Lutherans at occasional ecumenical services was among a number of items discussed by Lutheran and Catholic bishops at their 10th annual meeting October 25-26 in Washington.

The proposed service booklet, which would supplement existing non-eucharistic orders of worship in use in Catholic and Lutheran parishes, would include a foreword for worship planners and leaders as well as a variety of prayers and hymn suggestions for seasonal and occasional use.

The participants also discussed including membership of the two churches in implementation of the results of the dialogue in light of recent addresses to Lutheran bodies by Johannes Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity.

In messages to meetings of the Lutheran Church in America and to the Lutheran World Federation, Cardinal Willebrands said that juridical reception of ecumenical agreements by church authorities should be backed by a wider acceptance of such agreements within each church.

/more

NATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

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

2/Dialogue

As an example of developing Catholic-Lutheran common witness and action, the Washington dialogue participants approved a new effort to jointly deal with common concerns in areas such as Central America, Tanzania, Namibia, and South Africa, where Catholic Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban has pleaded innocent to government charges that he "falsely" accused a police unit of committing atrocities against civilians in Namibia.

Dialogue participants also discussed the evaluation of ecumenical dialogues as a growing priority, particularly in approaching months as their churches move ahead on evaluating results of the U.S. Catholic-Lutheran dialogue and responding to the "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry" document of the World Council of Church's Faith and Order Commission.

They also noted that the official international Catholic-Lutheran dialogue is expected to issue a major document soon suggesting possible models, forms and phases of Catholic-Lutheran unity.

Also discussed were the latest agreement on "justification by faith" by the U.S. Catholic-Lutheran dialogue and the dialogue's entry into discussions of Mary and the saints.

The participants also discussed their churches' positions and concerns regarding religion and politics, the recent Vatican document on liberation theology, a recent address by Pope John Paul II on the ecumenical role of the bishop of Rome, and

/more

3/Dialogue

the views of their churches on the teaching ministry of bishops.

They discussed pornography as a serious problem in the United States and encouraged clergy and laity to participate in local interfaith efforts to enforce anti-pornography laws.

Catholic bishops at the meeting were Archbishop John F. Whealon of Hartford, chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs; Bishop Ernest L. Unterkoefler of Charleston, S.C.; Bishop William H. Keeler of Harrisburg, Pa.; and Coadjutor Bishop Ralph M. Fliss of Superior, Wis. Also present were Father John F. Hotchkin, director of the Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs secretariat, and Father Carl Peter and Father Avery Dulles, both of the Catholic University of America.

Lutheran representatives were Bishop James R. Crumely and Bishop Virgil A. Moyer, Jr., of the Lutheran Church in America; Bishop David W. Preuss and Bishop E. Harold Jansen, of the American Lutheran Church; Bishop Will Herzfield, of the Association of Lutheran Churches; Paul Wee and David Burke, of Lutheran World Ministries; Joseph Burgess, of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.; and William Rusch, of the Lutheran Church in America.

The dialogue's next regular meeting is scheduled for October 29-30, 1985.

#

X,A,CL