



# NEWS

FILE  
COPY

**DATE:** June 10, 1987  
**FROM:** Robert Wonderly  
O-202/659-6700  
H-703/979-3293

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ORIENTAL ORTHODOX, CATHOLIC  
CONSULTATION IN 14th MEETING**

NEW YORK--The 14th meeting of the Oriental Orthodox/Roman Catholic Consultation in the U.S.A. discussed questions of Christology, ecclesiology, and the Eucharistic discipline, as defined in recent Common Declarations between the Oriental Orthodox Primates and the Pope, and in theological dialogues between the Churches.

The meeting, held last month in New York, was co-sponsored by the Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian, and Syrian hierarchies of the four-member Oriental Orthodox Church and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Co-chairmen were Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, representing the NCCB Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee, and Archbishop Athanasius Y. Samuel of the Syrian Church.

/more

NATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

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

2/Meeting

Among topics discussed was a June, 1984, statement of Pope John Paul II and Syrian Orthodox Patriarch Moran Mar Ignatius Zakka I Iwas of Antioch authorizing members of their denominations to request the sacraments of penance, Eucharist, and anointing of the sick "from lawful priests of either of our two sister churches" on occasions when "access to a priest of their own church (is) materially or morally impossible."

The statement added that "it would be a logical corollary of collaboration in pastoral care to cooperate in priestly formation and theological education."

The New York meeting schedule provided for attendance by members of both committees at an Armenian Divine Liturgy at Holy Martyrs Armenian Church in Bayside, N.Y.

Participants in the meeting, in addition to the two co-chairmen, were Rev. Arten Ashjian and Rev. Garabed Kochakian, Armenian Church; Rev. Dr. Gabriel A. Abdelsayed, Coptic Church; Rev. Tsehai Birhanu, Ethiopian Church; and Chorepiscopus John Meno, Syrian Church.

Roman Catholic participants included Professor Thomas E. Bird, Father Aelred Cody, O.S.B., Father Gabriel Duffy, Father Sarhad Hermiz Jammo, Father John F. Long, S.J., Father Joseph Thomas, and Father Joseph W. Witmer, of the NCCB Ecumenical and Religious Affairs Secretariat staff.

# # #

X,CL