

NADEO NEWSLETTER

Volume 13, Issue 1 and 2

March 8, 2004

The Purposes of NADEO

- To stimulate the exchange of ideas, experiences and networking among the ecumenical officers of the dioceses in union with Rome.
- To promote programs which further the work of Christian Unity and interreligious cooperation.
- To cooperate with the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and other ecumenical and interreligious agencies

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Upcoming Book on Pope To Include Essays on Ecumenism, Interreligious Dialogue

Essays on the Pope John Paul II's contributions to ecumenism and interreligious dialogue will figure prominently in a forthcoming book commemorating his 25th anniversary as pope. *John Paul II: A Light for the World*, a 256-page book containing informative essays, reflections by U.S. bishops and cardinals, and photos by official Vatican photographers, will be published early this Fall by Sheed & Ward.

The Pope's contributions to ecumenical dialogue with Protestants, Orthodox, Jews, Muslims, and others are among the themes treated in the book by USCCB Department of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs staff, including Father Arthur Kennedy, John Borelli, Father Ronald Roberson, CSP, and Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC.

In "Dialogue with the Culture," USCCB Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Director Father Arthur Kennedy

outlines Pope John Paul II's vision of the Gospel preached and celebrated within a culture founded on the "dignity of man." The Pope, teaching that the Church is at once rooted in culture and transcending it, points to a "sacramental vision of the mystery of human life" which gives shape to human institutions. Father Kennedy then sets out the Pope's aspirations for a broader dialogue inclusive of those who have no belief. With these in mind, the Pope established in 1982 the Pontifical Council for Culture and, in 1993, the Council for Dialogue with Non-believers.

In his essay "Dialogue with World Religions," John Borelli outlines the Pope's threefold leadership in the area of interreligious dialogue. "By giving preeminent leadership as Pope, trusting the fundamental role of the Holy Spirit, and connecting this dialogue with the evangelizing mission of the Church," the Pope has reinvo-

rated the Church's commitment to dialogue. Examples of this abound, according to Borelli, from the Assisi World Days of Prayers for Peace (October 27, 1986, and January 24, 2002) to the Pope's encyclicals *Redemptor Hominis*, *Redemptoris Missio*, and *Ut Unum Sint*.

Eugene Fisher, in his essay "Celebrating Common Heritage with the Jews," describes the progress made in the Catholic-Jewish dialogue during the current pontificate. In his writings, visits with Jewish leaders, and Jubilee Year pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the Pope has "set the Catholic-Jewish relationship on firm footing of reconciliation for the centuries and millennia to come."

The Pope's efforts in dialogue with Protestants are outlined in the essay "Unifying all Christians" by Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC. Pointing to the public apology for the failings of Catholics,

President's Letter *by Garland Pohl*

Dear Fellow Ecumenists,

Because our ministry is young and just developing, many work in relative isolation from peers with only occasional contact. Hence the joy and excitement we have in gathering at the National Workshop on Christian Unity to be in a group where our "language" is spoken and understood. This past May we met in Savannah on such an occasion for a very successful workshop with the best ever attendance by NADEO. Many thanks to Michael Kavanaugh for his work as local chair and NADEO host and to Bishop Kevin Boland for his welcome.

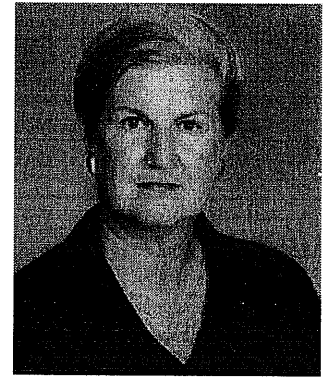
Summer in St. Louis found fifteen present and future ecumenical leaders gathered for training at the Institute for Ecumenical Leadership, an event presented at regular intervals since 1981. Some of the good news there was that seven of the participants ranged in age from twenty-three to forty-one. By contrast with the aging of the first group of Catholic ecumenical agents, this could be said to have been a youth rally.

In October a Catholic-Buddhist dialogue was convened at Graymoor under the leadership of Jim Gardiner and the Faiths in the World Committee.

The program included spiritual practices of both traditions. One day was spent at the beautiful Chuang Yen Monastery with its two spectacular buildings designed by I.M. Pei.

NADEO will be researching the experiences of baptismal practice in the USA and the implications for ecumenical relations. Each diocese is asked to participate in a research survey that will be sent to the ecumenical officer of each diocese. The report will be presented to the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs in April. Please respond promptly to the survey that should be received shortly.

The next National Workshop on Christian Unity will be held May 10-13th in Omaha, Nebraska. As part of the NADEO Program an election for the office of president will be held during the General Assembly. Only those dioceses that are dues-paid are eligi-



ble to cast a vote to determine the future leadership of NADEO. A letter describing the duties of the president and the manner of nomination and election according to the by-laws will be sent to each ecumenical officer of record.

Please consider the Advanced Institute for Ecumenical Leadership to be held this August in Washington DC.

Finally, we send our best wishes with our friend and mentor, John Borelli, as he assumes a new position at Georgetown University. Let's pray for him and for ourselves as ministers of healing and reconciliation.

Your friend and president,

Garland Pohl

Rest in Peace: Msgr. Olin Murdock *by Joseph Hilinski*

Dear friends:

On Jan. 6, 2004 Msgr. Olin J. Murdock died at the Pine River Health Care Facility. He was 86. He served as superintendent of education for the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw in the sixties and as ecumenical officer in the 80's. Ordained in 1948. He was

brought up a Methodist but after he began studies to the ministry of that Church he was lead to enter the Catholic Church. He served with graciousness the Ohio-Michigan rep. for the Nadeo Board. May he rest in peace! Amen. May he find a place at the Banquet Table of Heaven, for he

served so faithfully God's people at the Table of the Lord's Supper on earth.

Fr. Joseph Hilinski
Cleveland, Ohio

Region VII News *by Jason Renken*

Starting in June 2003, the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (EIA Office) of the Archdiocese of Chicago began a monthly radio program on AM-820 as part of the archdiocesan Catholic Community of Faith radio series. The half-hour program, hosted by Sr. Joan McGuire, O.P. and Jason Renken of the EIA Office, has included topics such as ecumenism, Jewish-Catholic relations, Muslim-Catholic relations, the Interfaith Airport Chapels of Chicago and the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions.

From October 30, 2003 through November 2, 2003, the Archdiocese of Chicago hosted the first Catholic Festival of Faith. Ecumenical and interreligious workshops sponsored by the EIA Office included: "Catholic-Jewish Relations Since Vatican II: Where We've Been, Where We're Going", "Catholic and Ecumenical: If You Are the First, You Must Be the

Second", "Understanding Islam", "Ecumenism: A Call to Conversion", "Interchurch Marriage: A Gift and Challenge for the Church".

Members of the EIA Office attended the Interfaith Unity Banquet on August 29, 2003 hosted by the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) at their annual convention. They also represented the Catholic tradition at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Chicago Chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice, and attended the annual Interfaith Iftar hosted by the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago. Both events took place on November 19, 2003. In addition, Sr. Mary Ellen Coombe, nds of the EIA Office, as well as Lutheran, Episcopalian, Greek Orthodox, Catholic and Jewish clergy and rabbis attended the annual Clergy-Rabbi Retreat, co-sponsored by the EIA Office, on

November 19-20, 2003.

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. and judicatory heads from 16 churches participated in the 4th Annual Chicagoland Ecumenical Prayer Service on January 23, 2004 celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service was held at Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary, a high school seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Previous services have been held at St. James Episcopal Cathedral, First United Methodist Church (Chicago Temple) and First Baptist Congregational (UCC) Church.

The EIA Office continues to contribute locally and internationally to the planning of the 2004 Parliament of the World's Religions in Barcelona, Spain from July 7-13, 2004. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the fourth Parliament. Please contact the Parliament offices directly at 312-629-2990 or visit www.cpwr.org for more details.

Pope: continued from page one

ecumenical rallies, local and national prayer initiatives, and the "agreements in faith" that the Catholic-Anglican and Catholic-Lutheran dialogues have enjoyed during John Paul II's pontificate, Brother Gros calls the Pope a "pioneer of Christian unity" who "saw many breaks with long-standing Catholic practices and habits of mind."

At the forefront of the Pope's ecumenical initiatives is the Orthodox-Catholic dialogue, according to Father Ronald Roberson, CSP, in his essay "East and West, Healing the Rift." Building on Blessed John XXIII's

dialogue with the Orthodox, Pope John Paul II wrote in *Ut Unum Sint* (1995) that "the Catholic Church desires nothing less than full communion between East and West." In his writings and travels, Pope John Paul II has repeatedly assured the Orthodox of the "benevolent intentions" of the Catholic Church. The current pontificate, writes Father Roberson, has witnessed a "greater sense of trust" between East and West, essential if the goal of full communion is to be reached.

Featuring rich full-color photos from the very beginnings

of John Paul II's papacy to the present day, *A Light for the World* includes a foreword by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, an introduction by USCCB President Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, and a biographical sketch by John Thavis, Rome Bureau Chief of Catholic News Service.

Over 40 informative essays by USCCB staff cover such topics as the Pope's travels, liturgy, outreach to the poor, vocations, social teachings, ecumenism, public policy, bioethics, and doctrine.

Georgetown University Welcomes John Borelli

Washington, DC – Georgetown University today announced the appointment of Dr. John Borelli as Special Assistant to the President for Interreligious Initiatives, effective February 2, 2004.

As Special Assistant, Dr. Borelli will work with President DeGioia and other members of the University community to coordinate Georgetown's contributions to interreligious understanding. In particular, he will be responsible for strategic planning and project management related to interreligious dialogue, including the design, implementation and management of special projects that maximize the University's contributions to the field of interreligious understanding.

"John Borelli comes to Georgetown with a deep understanding of the importance of interreligious dialogue and initiatives," said University President John J. DeGioia. "We are pleased to welcome him to Georgetown as the university continues to strengthen its contributions in this important area."

Dr. Borelli joins Georgetown from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, where he was Associate Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. While there, he was staff to the Bishops' Subcommittee on Interreligious Dialogue, which oversees three dialogues with Muslims, one with Hindus, and one with Buddhists. Since 1989, he has been a consultant to the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Dr. Borelli earned a B.A. in Philosophy from St. Louis University and a Ph.D. in Theology and History of Religions from Fordham University. He has been at the Bishops' Conference since 1987, and for the last three years has served as President of the National Ecumenical Officers Association.

"Interreligious dialogue has become a familiar dimension of our lives over the last few decades," said Dr. Borelli. "As a respected Catholic, Jesuit institution of higher learning, Georgetown can offer particularly special opportunities to advance and deepen interreligious understanding. I am enthused to join the University community in bringing its many talents and resources together to bear on the current needs for interreligious relations and understanding."

About Georgetown University

Georgetown University is the oldest Catholic and Jesuit university in America, founded in 1789 by Archbishop John Carroll. Georgetown today is a major student-centered, international, research university offering respected undergraduate, graduate and professional programs on its three campuses. For more information about Georgetown University, visit www.georgetown.edu.

Ecumenical Ethics *by, John W. Crossin, OSFS,*

Virtue Ethics is ecumenical ethic. I mentioned this fact to a colleague at the recent National Workshop in Savannah. She said: What is virtue ethics?

How can I explain virtue ethics succinctly?

1. I might say that for the last two decades it has been the emerging school of thought in American ethics. In recent times there have been two dominant schools of thinking in ethics. The first is the *rule-oriented* approach of Immanuel Kant. William Frankena [Ethics] and John Rawls {A Theory of Justice} are notable present-day disciples. This school of thought with its emphasis on moral principles is evident in much writing about bio-medical issues. The second major school of thought is consequentialism. This school is the present-day successor of the 19th century Utilitarians. Results are the major criterion for moral decisions. In practice, this is the way Americans often make their decisions.
2. I might say that saints such as Augustine, Aquinas, Ignatius Loyola and Jane de Chantal emphasized the virtues. With the demise of the Proportionalism debate in Catholic moral theology, an emphasis on the virtues is again coming to the fore.
3. I should stress that the main player in the revival of virtue ethics is the Methodist Theologian Stanley Hauerwas of Emory University. He began to study and write about Christian Character in the '70s. Now writers as diverse as Gilbert Meilaender [Lutheran], Joseph Kotva [Mennonite}, Joseph Woodill [Orthodox} and Benjamin Farley [Reformed] have joined in.
4. I will note that virtue ethics stresses that it is a person who makes a moral decision. The person is most important though, of course, principles and results do matter. The person is:
 - a. Made in the image and likeness of God – Trinity of persons.
 - b. Thus made for community and formed in relationships-parishes, families and friendships.
 - c. Is formed in relationship with God in the power of the Holy Spirit especially in prayer.
 - d. Thus grows in virtues which integrate thoughts, feelings, intuitions and scientific knowledge.
 - e. All of which virtues have love at the root.

My four points hardly do justice to the richness of contemporary thinking. I do hope that they increase your interest in virtue as an ecumenical ethic.

Region IV News *by Joseph F. Rebman*

No real ecumenical functions have taken place on the diocesan level.

The denominational executives met once or twice. Bishop Sartarelli said that they were supportive of the Catholic Church's efforts to handle the sex abuse problem among the clergy. This group meets for mutual support and fellowship.

A Lutheran Pastor with his wife and daughter entered the Catholic Church and is pursuing studies for the Priesthood. Two Episcopalian priests have made inquiries of the diocese about the possibility of conversion and pursuing a ministerial career. Considering the size of the Diocese of Wilmington, there is difficulty finding meaningful and gainful employment for them.

An Episcopalian priest who sought conversion maybe 5-7 year ago referred to New York. Cardi-

nal O'Connor ordained him and he functioned as a hospital chaplain until his untimely death this year.

Msgr. Rebman has had discussions with Rt. Rev. Joel Johnson, Bishop of the Diocese of the Chesapeake who lives and functions out of Easton, MD. He is one of the Bishops who does not support the present apparent majority Episcopalian leadership over woman's ordination and ordination of gay and lesbians. His wife and children are Roman Catholic. Since he is Spanish speaking he does present some pastoral problems for us in the Easton area where he operates out of a storefront church.

Interfaith Resources Center moved from diocesan building to headquarters in a local Episcopalian church. Diocese needed additional office space. With the use of internet, need for extensive resource library has been dimin-

ished on diocesan level.

On the parish level there continues to be cooperation on Food Closets, worship services at Thanksgiving and during Lent and Holy Week. The Chair of Unity Octave is to really be celebrated in our diocese except with petition in Prayer of Faithful.

The NCCJ now called National Conference of Community and Justice is losing its religious connection through the clergy dialog continues to meet. A priest representative serves on the State Board and also on the clergy dialog organizing committee.

The controversy in the Episcopal Church over the ordination of an openly gay bishop at the point has not brought any Episcopalians to the Catholic Church. The Episcopalian leadership in Delaware is largely supportive of the bishop's ordination.

The Armenian Apostolic Church

At the invitation of His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, a delegation of Catholic bishops from the United States, led by Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore, was in Armenia from August 27th to September 3, 2003. The occasion of the visit was the celebration this year of the 1700th anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral in Holy Etchmiadzin, the spiritual center of the Armenian Apostolic

Church. This visit was an opportunity for the bishops to become familiar with the continuing renewal of the Armenian Church after the end of the communist regime, to increase fraternal links between the two churches, and to foster contacts with the Armenian Catholic Church in that country. The new witness of faith offered by the Armenian Church after the enormous suffering it has endured during the last century deeply impressed the delegation.

The delegation also had significant contact with the Catholic community in Armenia. After long years of suffering, the Armenian Catholic community is also showing strong signs of recovery. The delegation was especially pleased to learn that both the Apostolic Nuncio and the local Armenian Catholic Church enjoy excellent relations with the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Book Review: Catholic Teaching on Ecumenism and World Religions *by Joseph Hilinski*

Both of these publications are from the Center for Learning and a part of its Catholic Teaching series. This series is a resource for adults interested in updating their own understanding of current Catholic theology and the application of those theological insights into their own life circumstances. The one on World Religions is a 69-page booklet with a fine introduction outlining how Christianity has different approaches to world religions and then outlines the distinctive approach that the Catholic Church takes to the issue. What follows is a very fine summary of Hinduism,

Buddhism, some other East Asian religions, Islam and Judaism. While only thumbnail sketches, each religion is treated concerning its basic belief, rituals, and worldview. Each religion ends with a section called "points of convergence and difference" with Catholic Christianity. The one on Ecumenism, some 60 pages covers a historical overview, theology of Ecumenism with a very cogent seven selected Catholic principles of Ecumenism, as well as the practice of ecumenism in prayer, dialogue, study and reception. Both publications are from teachers/professors and offer good or-

ganization to providing sound introduction to an inquiring Catholic as well as helpful update to someone with theological training. Reasonably priced depending on quantity between \$3.00 - \$3.00. Center for Learning fax: 888-767-



NADEO

Region 10 News *by Kathleen Easler*

Fort Worth Diocese: 29 Parish Ecumenical Representatives have begun work on various Ecumenical projects, including more than 10 parishes in the 28 counties of north central Texas planning observances of the Week of Prayer and Ecumenical Sunday in January, 2004. The churches of Cook County have formed a monthly

prayer workshop to focus on issues of there area. Denton Area churches observed Good Friday 2003 in a noontime Worship Service, and joined in an Ecumenical Advisory Group to plan other cooperation. Catholics in Munster are working with Church Woman United on their programs, having had a very successful World Day

of Prayer focusing on the suffering of the Church of Lebanon. In southwest Fort Worth a community service organization providing food, clothing and other aid to the poor involves 17 churches, who worship together on Pentecost Sunday as well as an annual Thanksgiving Service the Sunday before the holiday.

Publication Notice

The NADEO Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers. NADEO is a professional society whose purpose is to stimulate the exchange of ideas and experiences among the ecumenical officers serving the Catholic Church in the dioceses of the United States of America. It promotes programs that further Christian Unity and interreligious dialogue according to the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and the post-conciliar Magisterium. NADEO also cooperates in a special way with the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. Additionally, the association collaborates with other professional societies, councils of churches and interfaith organizations in the achievement of its purposes. The association is based at the Office of the President, 8003 Mobud Street, Houston, Texas 77036-6403. The NADEO Newsletter is published at the Office of the NADEO Editor, 1000 East Maple Avenue, Mundelein, IL 60060. It is also available on the web as www.nadeo.org

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NADEO

"One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism"

We're on the Web!
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Coming Events

**2004 NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
CHRISTIAN UNITY**

My Peace I Give To You

Doubletree Hotel

Omaha, Nebraska

May 10-13, 2004

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***Oriente Lumen
VIII***

*"Orthodox/Catholic Dialogue: What's
Our Bottom Line for Christian
Unity?"*

June 21-24, 2004

Washington, D.C.

For Information or
Registration go to

www.olconference.com

NAAE

The North American Academy
of Ecumenists

Holds its annual meeting each
September. Its conferences are
professional and scholarly in
substance and informal in style.
Attendance at the conference is
open to all who are interested
in discussing the proposed
theme.

Watch the Web for further in-
formation:

www.naae.net