

CADEIO Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 1

June 2009



Report of the Awards Committee for 2009 by Fr. Charles Parr, Diocese of Patterson, New Jersey

The focus of this committee continues to be annual presentation of The James E. Fitzgerald Award, within the context of the annual meeting.

The current, full-time, dues-paid members of the association were contacted by surface mail in early February 2009 to solicit nominations for this prestigious honor. Six dioceses or archdioceses responded, nominating eight candidates: Cardinal Edward Idris Cassidy, Cardinal Walter Kasper, Rev. James Massa, Sr. Joan Monica McGuire, O.P., Rev. Dennis McManus, Rev. John Radano, Rev. Thomas Ryan, and (posthumously) Brother Roger Schutz. An additional name, Rev. Msgr. Raymond Barton, was received after the close of nominations.

These eight nominations, with appropriate documentation, were forwarded in early March 2009 to the

members of the executive board of directors, the executive officers of the association, and the chairs of

the association's standing committees.

The March 2009 e-mail voting resulted in
(Continued on page 6)

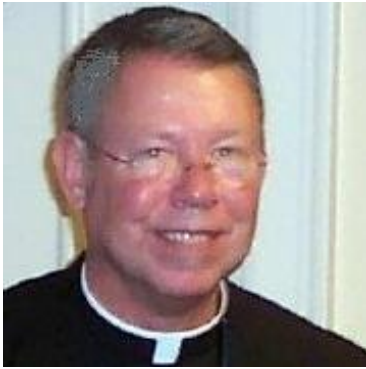
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CADEIO President Fr. Robert Flannery presented Sr. Joan Monica McGuire, O.P., with the 2009 James E. Fitzgerald Award for outstanding contribution and service in the work of Christian unity and interreligious understanding and cooperation at the CADEIO luncheon on April 28, 2009, at the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Phoenix, Arizona.

President's Letter by Fr. Robert Flannery



Dear CADEIO members and associates,

We are happy to once again to be able to provide a *CADEIO Newsletter* to our membership made possible with the generous offer of Dr. Julie Conroy of Washington, DC, one of our new associate members, to be the newsletter editor. Julie has had experience doing this type of work in other arenas of her life, and we thank her for her willingness to assist our association with this important resource. Since the last published newsletter a year and a half ago, we have been passing along news and other information via e-mail to our constituency. The newsletter will obviously allow us to do this in a more organized and systematic manner. It is our hope to publish the newsletter quarterly, and so the next one following this June issue will be out during the month of September. If you have any articles or information to pass along to our new editor, please contact Julie at jmtconroy@gmail.com. We are always glad to publish what is being done locally or regionally in regard to ecumenical or interreligious matters.

It is our hope to publish the newsletter quarterly, and so the next one following this June issue will be out during the month of September. If you have any articles or information to pass along to our new editor, please contact Julie at jmtconroy@gmail.com. We are always glad to publish what is being done locally or regionally in regard to ecumenical or interreligious matters.

Please make sure we always have your current e-mail address, so we can always be in touch with you through electronic means. We ask our Region Representatives to be especially aware of their region's contact information changes to assist us in this important process of communication. Send the updated contact information to our CADEIO secretary, Fr. Don Rooney at frrooney@stmaryfred.org. Don has done an excellent job of trying to have everyone's current information, but there is still much old or incorrect information in our system because of the lack of individual officers or regional representatives not keeping us informed. Please do your part to help us with this ongoing task. It will not be insurmountable with everyone's assistance and cooperation.

In this issue, along with other content, we have a **formal record of the reports of the committees and undertakings at our recent CADEIO program at the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) which was held in Phoenix, Arizona, April 27–30, 2009**. In the September newsletter, we will print the draft minutes of our general assembly after the executive officers have had an opportunity to review them. About 80 people attended our 2009 CADEIO events. We want to thank Fr. Michael Diskin, Dr. Barry Sargent, Deacon John Meyer, and Mrs. Loretta Tracy for all of the excellent work they did with the arrangements for both the NWCU and the Catholic program. A special note of gratitude is extended to Bishop Thomas Olmsted and the Diocese of Phoenix for their sponsorship of many aspects of the event. We also thank our seminar presenters, luncheon speakers, Eucharistic presider, and homilist: Rev. Dr. Mel Robeck, Fr. Dennis McManus, Bishop William Gregg, Fr. Ron Roberson, CSP, Bishop Tom Olmsted, and Bishop Gerald Kicanas. Please note that you can go online to the www.nwcu.org website to download the seminars and major addresses of the workshop in audio and sometimes video format.

On another note, **we congratulate Fr. Leo Walsh** from the Archdiocese of Anchorage and our CADEIO treasurer for the past year who has been selected by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to **be the new associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (SEIA)**. Leo begins his new position August 1, and he replaces Fr. Francis Tiso who is finishing his term this July 1, 2009. We thank Francis for his service to the SEIA and CADEIO these past five years, and we welcome our brother and colleague, Leo, who I know will serve us well.

Our CADEIO constitution and bylaws state that whenever a vacancy occurs among the executive officers or regional representatives, the president appoints someone as a replacement until the next regular election takes place. After consultation and agreement with Leo as well as the two remaining CADEIO executive officers besides myself—Msgr. George Appleyard and Fr. Don Rooney—I **have appointed Msgr. Patrick Halfpenny**,

ecumenical and interreligious officer for the Archdiocese of Detroit, former Region 6 representative, and finance committee member **to be our new CADEIO treasurer**. I know Pat will do an excellent job during this transition for the coming year, and perhaps even beyond, when we elect our new officers in April.

Also, please **mark your calendars for next year's NWCU in Tampa—April 19–22**. Fr. Don Rooney is the chair of the national planning committee for the event. **Our elections for the new CADEIO executive officers will take place at next year's meeting**. Please note that next April I will have served my two three-year-term maximum and will no longer be eligible to serve as president. The other officer positions will need to be filled through election as well. We hope to see you in Tampa for our regular meeting and program as well as the elections that will determine the future of our association's leadership.

We have at least **seventeen registrants for our Initial Institute for Ecumenical Leadership, August 3–10, 2009, at Mercy Center in Saint Louis**. If you are interested in attending, please contact me as soon as possible. We still have some partial scholarships available.

*"I have appointed
Msgr. Patrick
Halfpenny,
Ecumenical and
Interreligious
Officer for the
Archdiocese of
Detroit, to be our
new CADEIO
Treasurer."*

Next year's Advanced Institute—participants need to have attended the Initial Institute as a prerequisite—will be held at the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research at Saint John's Abbey and University in **Collegeville, Minnesota**. Saint John's was the location of the very first Institutes for Ecumenical Leadership sponsored by CADEIO and the SEIA in the early 1980s. The dates will be from **Sunday evening, July 25, to Saturday morning, July 31, 2010**. Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC, is heading up an excellent list of presenters, who will address recent documents and topics in the ecumenical world for the week, so please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Lastly, everyone is invited to attend the national **10th Anniversary Celebration of the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* (JDDJ)**, which will be held in downtown Chicago on Thursday, October 1, at 6:30 pm at Old Saint Patrick's Church. Cardinal Francis George, president of the USCCB, all the Catholic bishops of the province of Illinois, and all the bishops and members of the Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs will be in attendance. Homilist for the occasion will be Archbishop Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta and Chair of the Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the USCCB. Also in attendance will be Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), who is also the present Presiding Bishop of the Lutheran World Federation, Bishop Mark Hanson; General Secretary of the Lutheran World

Federation Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko; and the ELCA Conference of Bishops. Members and leadership of the United Methodists have also been invited because their leadership endorsed the JDDJ at a worldwide assembly in Korea in 2006. The invitation is open to everyone. Please consider being part of this great event and let Sr. Joan McGuire in the Archdiocese of Chicago's Officer of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs know if you are attending for planning purposes.

Have a great summer! God's peace, my co-workers in this important ecumenical and interreligious ministry.

Bob

Fr. Bob Flannery
CADEIO President

The Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers' Annual Meeting by Rev. Joseph D. Wallace, liaison to EDEIO

As liaison to the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO), I attended the annual EDEIO board meeting at the Duncan Center, Delray Beach, Florida, February 9–12, 2009. Besides EDEIO President Rev. Canon David L. Veal and his board, both CADEIO President the Very Reverend Robert B. Flannery and CADEIO representative to the Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network (LERN) Judi Longdin attended.

EDEIO strives to offer support and training for their diocesan ecumenical and interreligious officers, encourages ecumenical and interreligious activity within Episcopal parishes and dioceses, enhances communication throughout the Episcopal Church concerning ecumenical and interreligious affairs, and encourages ecumenical and interreligious awareness among all ministries of the church.

- On Monday, Feb. 9, a network presidents' and liaisons' meeting took place from 1:00

“The meeting was an excellent opportunity for each network to learn about the others and to be informed of one another’s programming and planning.”

to 5:00 p.m. In attendance were presidents Bob Flannery (CADEIO), David Veal (EDEIO), and Dr. Rocky Piro (LERN) and liaisons Judi Longdin, Rev. Chris Olkiewicz (LERN), and I. At this meeting a brief history, overview of structure and

Report on Catholic-Jewish Relations

by Msgr. Donald Beckmann, Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York

Two meetings were held this past year between representatives of the Orthodox Union/Rabbinic council of America and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre heads the Catholic Delegation, and Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld of New York heads the Jewish delegation. Msgr. Donald Beckmann represented CADEIO.

Last May’s meeting focused on the Ten Commandments as a

source for secular arguments for contemporary moral issues. The topic itself represents an advance in dialogue because, even though it is modified by references to secular arguments, it represents a discussion of biblical topics. Orthodox Judaism has had a strong, theologically based objection to theological dialogue with non-Jews.

This fall’s meeting approved a common statement on marriage as between a man and a woman.

News releases regarding both meetings may be found at the USCCB website.

There have not been meetings this year of the Conservative and Reform dialogue. Cardinal Francis George is expected soon to announce a replacement for Cardinal William Keeler, who has retired as the Catholic chair.

In addition, international meetings were held at the Vatican and in Budapest. CADEIO is not represented at these meetings.

organization, and an update were given for each network. The role and duties of liaisons were discussed, and an overview of the standing committees of each network was provided. In addition, the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) planning and the Student Essay Contest were discussed. This meeting also included a discussion of network institutes, special programs, newsletters, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and other topics of mutual interest. It was a productive opportunity to learn each other's structures and programming. The cross-pollination was found to be beneficial to all three networks.

- The EDEIO Executive Committee meeting covered many of the same topics as the presidents' and liaisons' meeting. Deputy for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Episcopal Church Bishop Chris Epting discussed the document of full communion with the Moravian Church entitled, **Finding Our Delight in the Lord**. He explained that this dialogue toward full

communion sets a precedence for future dialogue with like churches such as the Methodist Church. He also shared that EDEIO and the Church Divinity School of the Pacific are offering a 12-week online course in ecumenical and interreligious relations. This course is an interactive, participatory overview of current issues in the ecumenical and interreligious work of the Episcopal Church.

- Reports were given on such topics as the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations and joined parishes. A rather lengthy overview of EDEIO's programming and details in regard to the NWCU, Phoenix 2009, was discussed, followed by province reports from the ecumenical and interreligious officers.
- The meeting was an excellent opportunity for each network to learn about the others and be informed of one another's programming and planning.

Research and Development Committee

Questionnaire about Muslim-Catholic Marriages

This questionnaire surveys your views on and experience with Muslim-Catholic (mixed or interfaith) marriages. Your responses will be of assistance in preparing a pamphlet on Muslim and Catholic Perspectives on Matrimony, which is being prepared by the SEIA, based in part on the Mid-Atlantic Muslim-Catholic Dialogue.

1. Are you aware of any Muslim-Catholic marriages that have been celebrated in your diocese, eparchy, or region?
2. Are marriage preparation personnel (clergy and laity) in your diocese, eparchy, or region informed about how to guide Muslim-Catholic couples preparing for marriage?
3. Has the Diocesan Tribunal dealt with cases of annulment based on the incompatibility of Muslim and Catholic expectations regarding marriage?
4. In your opinion, can a faithful, practicing Catholic validly marry a faithful, practicing Muslim (keeping in mind that the Catholic partner would have to be female and the Muslim partner male to satisfy basic Muslim expectations and laws)?

Your additional observations are especially welcome. Please send your responses by June 1, 2009, to Fr. Bob Flannery, CADEIO President, 303 South Poplar Street, Carbondale, IL 62901-2709 (rbflan@globaleyes.net).

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2008

by Very Rev. Leo A. Walsh, S.T.D.

It was a pretty good year financially for CADEIO. There was a lot of activity in the various departments, but the prudent thriftiness that characterizes the membership allowed us to end the year with a positive balance equal to 16.41% of our gross income. All departments except one stayed within their budget. The notable exception was Faiths in the World, which exceeded its budget by more than 26%. As it was, we were able to end the year with a surplus of \$4,382.18.

The National Workshop on Christian Unity continues to be a subsidized item. Expenses for last year's workshop were lower than in previous years at \$10,287.97, but revenues were also lower at \$8,205.00. Thus the workshop was subsidized by \$2,082.97.

In August, our large \$50,000 certificate of deposit (CD) was cashed in and the proceeds invested in securities in Bank of America... (just kidding). Our total assets at the end of the year were \$99,786.27. At the recommendation of the officers, we will purchase three \$20,000 CDs: a three-year, a two-year, and a one-year. When the one-year CD matures, we will roll it into a three-year. The idea is that every year we will have one CD maturing in the spring to meet any

Recommendations

1. That full membership dues for the coming year be kept at the low, low price of \$200.00 for an eparchy or diocese and that associate member dues be kept at the absurdly low price of \$10.00.
2. That there be a concerted effort on the part of the membership, perhaps using episcopal persuasion, to recruit those dioceses or eparchies and religious organizations that have not yet joined and are not supporting the organization.
3. That the 2010 Proposed Budget be accepted as presented.

emergency cash-flow needs. This purchase will still leave us about \$40,000 in the operating account, which is more than enough forward to fund next year's expenses.

In spite of this surplus, only 104 out of 189 possible dioceses or eparchies and organizations actually paid dues in 2008.

Awards Committee

(Continued from page 1)

a four-way tie between candidates Cassidy, McGuire, Radano, and Ryan. It was determined to have a weighted vote at runoff: Sr. McGuire proved to be the successful nominee.

During this year's process two considerations for the future have surfaced: (1) the use of a weighted vote from the original ballot of candidates, who receive their nomination from the membership (flowing from current practice);

and (2) the formation of an additional annual award, to be bestowed at the annual meeting. The Fitzgerald Award, which commemorates the life and ministry of the late Reverend Monsignor James Edward Fitzgerald (Amarillo Diocese), an early leader in the ecumenical movement in the state of Texas after the Second Vatican Council, who has been credited with a pivotal role in the formation and work of the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers

(NADEO), the predecessor of CADEIO, might receive its nominations from the rolls of diocesan ecumenical and interreligious officers (present and past). This method would follow the current form of election, with the inclusion of a weighted vote.

The second award (untitled, as yet) might honor an individual or group from a more universal perspective. The process of this designation might be directed and presented by the president, with the input of the leadership of the association.

Income and Expense Report for Year Ending December 31, 2008

Account Number	Account	Actual	Budget
Revenue			
101	Full Membership Dues	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 26,000.00
102	Assoc. Membership Dues	\$ 530.00	\$ 750.00
103	Publications/Royalties	—	\$ 100.00
104	Institute	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,750.00
105	National Workshop	\$ 8,205.00	\$ 11,000.00
106	Interest	\$ 249.07	\$ 1,500.00
Total Revenue		\$ 31,084.07	\$ 42,100.00
Expenses			
201	General Administration	\$ 1,019.83	\$ 2,500.00
202	President's Office	\$ 4,430.78	\$ 4,500.00
203	Faiths in the World	\$ 3,406.05	\$ 2,700.00
204	Episcopalian/Catholic	\$ 378.00	\$ 1,500.00
205	Lutheran/Catholic	\$ 387.74	\$ 1,500.00
206	National Workshop	\$ 10,287.97	\$ 16,000.00
207	Research and Development	—	\$ 1,000.00
208	Newsletter/Website	\$ 417.35	\$ 3,000.00
209	Board Meeting	\$ 1,817.50	\$ 2,200.00
210	Catholic/Jewish	—	\$ 1,000.00
211	Fitzgerald Award	\$ 117.50	\$ 750.00
212	Publications	—	\$ 1,000.00
213	Contingency	\$ 620.55	\$ 1,000.00
214	Handbook	—	\$ 500.00
215	NCCC Liaison	\$ 988.83	\$ 1,500.00
216	Scholarships/Grants	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
217	Ecumenical Promotion	—	\$ 1,000.00
218	Student Essay Contest	\$ 829.79	\$ 2,000.00
219	CCT-USA	—	\$ 1,000.00
220	Institute	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Total Expenses		\$ 26,701.89	\$ 48,150.00
Projected Surplus (Deficit)			\$ (6,050.00)
Actual Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,382.18	

Cash on hand on December 31, 2008: \$99,786.27

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2010

Account Number	Account	2008 Actual	2010 Budget
Revenue			
101	Full Membership Dues	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 26,000.00
102	Assoc. Membership Dues	\$ 530.00	\$ 600.00
103	Publications/Royalties	—	\$ 100.00
104	Institute	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1500.00
105	National Workshop	\$ 8,205.00	\$ 11,000.00
106	Interest	\$ 249.07	\$ 1,000.00
Total Revenue		\$ 31,084.07	\$ 40,200.00
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201	General Administration	\$ 1,019.83	\$ 1,500.00
202	President's Office	\$ 4,430.78	\$ 4,500.00
203	Faiths in the World	\$ 3,406.05	\$ 2,750.00
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205	Lutheran/Catholic	\$ 387.74	\$ 1,000.00
206	National Workshop	\$ 10,287.97	\$ 14,000.00
207	Research and Development	—	\$ 1,000.00
208	Newsletter/Website	\$ 417.35	\$ 500.00
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218	Student Essay Contest	\$ 829.79	\$ 1,000.00
219	CCT-USA	—	\$ 1,000.00
220	Institute	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Total Expenses		\$ 26,701.89	\$ 40,000.00
Projected Surplus (Deficit)			\$ 200.00
Actual Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,382.18	

The Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (CEIA) Information and Reports for Spring 2009

by the Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta, Chairman

Members: Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, Chairman, Bishop Stephen E. Blaire, Bishop Daniel E. Flores, Bishop John R. Gaydos, Bishop Denis J. Madden, Bishop William F. Murphy, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Archbishop Basil M. Schott, O.F.M.

Consultants: Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb, Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, Bishop, Bishop Patrick R. Cooney, Bishop Howard J. Hubbard, Bishop Edward Kmiec, Cardinal William Keeler, Bishop Tod D. Brown, Bishop Ronald P. Herzog, Archbishop John C. Nienstedt, Bishop Francis R. Reiss, Bishop Plácido Rodríguez, C.M.F., Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., Bishop Richard J. Sklba, Bishop William S. Skylstad, Bishop John C. Wester.

Staff: Rev. James Massa, Rev. Ronald G. Roberson, C.S.P., Rev. Francis V. Tiso, Mr. Samuel Wagner, Mr. Neil P. Sloan, Mrs. Michele Poynton.

Christian Churches Together in the USA

The 2009 Annual Meeting of Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT) took place in Baltimore, Maryland, January 13–16. I was pleased to head the delegation of twelve United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) representatives, including Fr. James Massa and Fr. Ronald Roberson of the Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (SEIA) staff. The main focus of this meeting was to continue discussion of poverty in the United States. We were fortunate also to have with us on an ad hoc basis Executive Director of the Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development John Carr, and Director of Domestic Social Development Kathy Saile. At this meeting the participants did not issue a further consensus document in the name of CCT but elaborated a report of our work that helped to flesh out the objectives set forth in our 2007 consensus statement on poverty. During the meeting I joined eleven other CCT participants in a meeting with Melody Barnes, then the director-designate of the Domestic Policy Council, Joshua DuBois, director of religious affairs, and three other members of the Obama transition team in a wide-ranging discussion about domestic poverty and the economic stimulus package then under consideration. I also represented the USCCB at a press conference held at the National Press Club on this initiative.

Even though the participants in CCT have different emphases regarding the best approach to alleviating poverty in the United States, there was a strong consensus that it would be possible to cut the poverty level in half within 10 years if appropriate measures were taken that include both personal initiative and government assistance. In addition, Bishop William Murphy's January 28 letter to Congress urging that the poor be a priority in any economic recovery legislation reflected precisely the approach that was urged by the churches at CCT.

At this plenary a decision was made to change the name of one of the five "families" that compose CCT. The "Racial/Ethnic" family will now be known as the "African American" family or a similar name designated by its members. This was done as part of a continuing effort to increase participation by the black churches in CCT. The other four families are the Historic Protestant, Orthodox, and Evangelical/Pentecostal Churches, as well as the USCCB.

The next plenary meeting is scheduled for January 2010. It is to take place in the Pacific Northwest and the theme will be Evangelization.

Eastern Orthodox Relations

The North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation, co-chaired by Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, has not met since the last report of our committee. There have been further developments, however, in the

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Bishops' Committee

(Continued from page 9)

international dialogue with the Orthodox. The Coordinating Committee met in October on Crete and produced a draft document on the role of the bishop of Rome in the communion of the church during the first millennium. This text will be examined at the next meeting of the dialogue, which is due to take place in Cyprus in the fall of 2009. It should also be mentioned that the death of His Holiness Aleksy II, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, last December and the election of Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad as his successor, provided an occasion for high level-contacts between the Holy See and the Russian Orthodox Church. Patriarch Kirill's very extensive ecumenical experience gives reason to hope that relations may move forward in the years ahead.

Oriental Orthodox Relations

Our dialogue with the Oriental Orthodox Churches, co-chaired by Bishop Howard Hubbard, has not met since the last report of our committee. However, the international dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches met in Rome at the end of January. It was able to finish work on an agreed statement entitled, "The Nature, Constitution, and Mission of the Church," the first substantial text to emerge from the dialogue. It was published in the February 12, 2009, issue of **Origins**. The international dialogue is due to meet again in January 2010 in Lebanon, where it will examine the ways in which communion was expressed among our churches during the first five centuries, before communion was broken.

Polish National Catholic Relations

This dialogue, co-chaired by Bishop Edward Kmiec, met in Baltimore last November just before our plenary meeting. It examined **The Declaration of Scranton**, a recent Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC) doctrinal statement that highlighted divergences between the two churches regarding the teaching authority of the pope, and the Blessed

Virgin Mary. The meeting also included a discussion of misunderstandings at the local level and the best way to deal with them. Because of financial considerations it was decided to have one dialogue meeting in 2009, which is due to take place for two days in late September.

You will recall that our committee has proposed that the Holy See be asked if the PNCC could be considered in the same position as the Orthodox with regard to two matters: serving as godparents at Catholic baptisms along with a Catholic, and the necessity of dispensation from form in the case of mixed marriages for liceity only. This petition is still under discussion with the Committees on Doctrine and Canonical Affairs.

"There was a strong consensus that it would be possible to cut the poverty level in half within 10 years if appropriate measures were taken."

Anglican Relations

The newly reconstituted Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue in the United States has not met since the last report of our committee. It is scheduled to hold its next meeting in Cincinnati in May.

In the meantime, several disparate groups of more conservative Episcopalians and members of the Anglican Church of Canada amalgamated into a single "Anglican Church in North America" at a meeting in Wheaton, Illinois, on December 4, 2008. Although not recognized by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the group, which for now is headed by Bishop Robert Duncan of Pittsburgh, hopes eventually to be acknowledged as a province of the Anglican Communion on the same territory as the other two provinces. The leadership of this new jurisdiction claimed to have four bishops, 700 parishes, and roughly 100,000 members, compared to the total of 9,979 parishes and 2,796,417 members of the Episcopal Church (TEC) and the Anglican Church of Canada. The breakdown of parishes includes 135 of the Reformed Episcopal Church (founded in 1873), 140 of the Anglican Mission in the Americas (linked to the Anglican Church in Rwanda), 68 of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (linked to the Anglican Church in Nigeria), 36 of the Missionary Convocation of Kenya, 51 of the Missionary Convocation of Uganda, 30 parishes from the diocese of San Joaquin, 55 from the diocese of Pittsburgh, 20 from

the diocese of Quincy, 45 from the diocese of Fort Worth, 45 parishes formerly of the Anglican Church in Canada, and 45 individual congregations affiliated to Anglican jurisdictions in South America. This adds up to a total of 644 parishes in the new entity.

It should be noted that the Episcopal Dioceses of San Joaquin, Pittsburgh, Quincy, and Fort Worth had previously attempted to leave the Episcopal Church and affiliate with other Anglican provinces. In each case the Episcopal Church has reestablished its own diocese on the same territory for those parishes who wished to remain within TEC.

The common element in this new group is opposition to certain developments in TEC and the Anglican Church of Canada, especially regarding the ordination of openly gay clergy and the blessing of same-sex unions. Nevertheless, there is a wide range of theological opinion; some members come from the Anglo-Catholic stream of Anglicanism and others from the Evangelical wing. The group is not agreed on the possibility of ordaining women to the priesthood.

The new group's constitution begins with the following declaration of principles:

As the Anglican Church in North America (the Province), being a part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ, we believe and confess Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one comes to the Father but by Him. Therefore, we identify the following eight elements as characteristic of the Anglican Way, and essential for membership:

We confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, containing all things necessary for salvation, and to be the final authority and unchangeable standard for Christian faith and life.

1. We confess Baptism and the Supper of the Lord to be Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself in the Gospel, and thus to be ministered with unflinching use of His words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.
2. We confess the godly historic Episcopate as an inherent part of the apostolic faith and practice, and therefore as

integral to the fullness and unity of the Body of Christ.

3. We confess as proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture the historic faith of the undivided church as declared in the three Catholic Creeds: the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian.
4. Concerning the seven Councils of the undivided Church, we affirm the teaching of the first four Councils and the Christological clarifications of the fifth, sixth and seventh Councils, in so far as they are agreeable to the Holy Scriptures.
5. We receive The Book of Common Prayer as set forth by the Church of England in 1662, together with the Ordinal attached to the same, as a standard for Anglican doctrine and discipline, and, with the Books which preceded it, as the standard for the Anglican tradition of worship.
6. We receive the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion of 1562, taken in their literal and grammatical sense, as expressing the Anglican response to certain doctrinal issues controverted at that time, and as expressing fundamental principles of authentic Anglican belief.
7. We affirm the Global Anglican Future Conference Statement and Jerusalem Declaration issued 29 June 2008.

For now we believe it is appropriate to maintain our longstanding relationship with the Episcopal Church, the vast majority of whose members have remained within it. Whether a relationship of some sort with the new entity may be feasible in the future will depend on subsequent developments within the Anglican Communion.

Lutheran Relations

The U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue in Round XI met October 8–12 at Saint Paul's College in Washington, DC, for its fifth meeting to discuss "The Hope of Eternal Life." Bishop Richard Sklba,

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Bishops' Committee

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Auxiliar Bishop of Milwaukee, co-chairs this round with Dr. Lowell G. Almen, Secretary Emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Bishop Sklba indicates that the current round is moving toward an agreed statement that will show convergences and divergences in Catholic and Lutheran understandings of eternal life, against the backdrop of the historic **Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification** (1999). Topics covered in this agreement include Lutheran perspectives on prayers for the dead, the Catholic doctrine of merit, and biblical treatments of judgment, heaven, and hell, as well as an explanation of historical questions regarding purgatory and indulgences.

At the request of the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Mark Hanson, a subgroup within the U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue began meeting October 8 to assess progress on Eucharistic doctrine and practice. "Harvesting" the results of the many dialogues on this topic, and its related topic of ministry, has strong encouragement from the Holy See.

Plans for a joint 10-year commemoration of the **Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification** on October 1, 2009, in downtown Chicago are also under way. ELCA and Catholic representatives are expected to participate in an evening prayer-reception hosted by Cardinal Francis George of Chicago. I have agreed to be the preacher for this commemorative service.

Our committee and the Committee on Doctrine and Pastoral Practice have been invited to respond to the "Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality" of the ELCA. Owing to the draft's treatment of sensitive issues such as homosexuality and cohabitation, our Catholic contribution to these discussions reminds our Lutheran partners of the ecumenical consequences of adopting teachings and policies that depart from the accepted moral wisdom of Christian tradition.

Finally, from October 28 to 29 Fr. Massa preached the annual Lutheran-Catholic Bishops' Retreat (Region XII) in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Methodist Relations

The Methodist-Catholic dialogue launched a new five-year round of meetings, December 16–18, 2008, at St. Paul's College in Washington, DC, discussing environmental stewardship. The dialogue, which had not met since 2005, brought together new delegations of scholars from the United Methodist Church (UMC) and the USCCB. In recent years, top church leaders, including Pope Benedict XVI and Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, have placed care for the world's ecosystems at the center of the church's social agenda. The ecumenical presence at scientific conferences that examine the effects of fossil fuel emissions, deforestation, and nuclear proliferation on the environment has now become a standard occurrence. What is unique about the new Catholic-Methodist discussion is its examination of environmental responsibility from the perspective of Christian worship, particularly as found in the Eucharist. Fr. Paul McPartlan, Professor at the Catholic University of America, provided an overview of Catholic-Methodist dialogue since the Second Vatican Council. He noted the World Methodist Council's adoption of the Lutheran-Catholic **Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification** in Seoul, South Korea, in 2006, as an historic breakthrough in the relationship. On the basis of this doctrinal convergence on what it means to be justified, i.e., "made righteous" in Christ, the two churches now pursue a discussion of "living justly" in relation to God's creation. Bishop William Skylstad of Spokane co-chairs the new round with UMC's Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker of Florida.

Evangelical Relations

Meeting for the final time on October 17–19 in St. Paul, Minnesota, the Evangelical-Catholic dialogue issued a statement on the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The dialogue, which involves seven Catholic scholars and fifteen theologians from Evangelical and Pentecostal traditions, had been meeting annually since 2002 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. On the final day of their meeting, participants adopted a consensus statement on the death of Jesus as an atoning sacrifice. Drawing on confessional and magisterial statements of their respective traditions, the Catholic and Evangelical scholars agreed that "Christ's death on the Cross is the propitiatory sacrifice that satisfies the wrath of

God against sin and the expiatory sacrifice that cleanses sin and shame.” They agreed that the doctrine of the atonement is one of the “life-giving truths” of the Gospel, but acknowledged that the two sides have yet to agree on how these truths should be lived by Christians in their worship and piety.

Bishop John Gaydos of Jefferson City agreed to serve as Catholic co-chair for this final session of the dialogue. With the assistance of Fr. Massa, Bishop Gaydos reported to the group about the reductions in USCCB-sponsored dialogues and activities. He expressed hope that the papers of this exemplary dialogue and the consensus statement on the Atonement of Christ adopted at this session will be documented in book form in the near future.

Faith and Order Commission

The Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) held its second meeting of the 2008–2011 quadrennium in Oklahoma City on October 16–18, 2008. The commission continued work in its three study groups: “Justice and Justification: Beyond the Dichotomies,” “Unity in Mission,” and “The Nature and Mission of the Church.” It also reviewed a forthcoming commission statement, “The Witness of the Churches for the Sake of the World,” and it discussed the NCC’s recently approved “Ecumenical Response to ‘A Common Word between Us and You.’” The commission also gathered for a time of silent prayer at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, commemorating the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

The next commission meeting will be held March 19–21, 2009. Dr. Christopher Ruddy of the University of St. Thomas is Field Representative of the SEIA to Faith and Order. Fr. John T. Ford, C.S.C. and Dr. Barbara K. Sain also serve as members of the USCCB delegation.

Jewish Relations

Meeting at St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore on December 2, 2008, the USCCB’s Consultation with the **National Council of Synagogues** (NCS) of America examined the distinct ways in which Catholics and Jews look upon the Holy Land. Dr. Wilhelmus G.B.M. Valkenberg, visiting professor of theology at Loyola College of Maryland, argued that

Catholics make pilgrimages to Israel and Palestine chiefly because of the territory’s association with the life and saving work of Jesus Christ. For Catholics the land is “sacramental,” suggesting that its symbolic power lies in the fact that it points beyond itself to the ultimate homeland, heaven. Jews, on the other hand, view attachment to the historic land as integral to their faith. Rabbi Reuven Hammer, head of the Rabbinical Court in Jerusalem, asserted that abandonment of the land by Jews is, theologically speaking, a repudiation of God’s promises in the Bible. Participants also discussed Jewish reactions to Pope Benedict XVI’s revision of the Good Friday Prayer in the 1962 Missal, as well as the movement to declare Pope Pius XII a saint. It was noted that proponents of Jewish-Catholic dialogue had hoped that the Good Friday Prayer in the Missal of Paul VI might replace the original 1962 prayer, because the former avoids conversionary language and recognizes the Jewish people as “the first to hear the word of God.” Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore serves as Catholic co-chair of this semiannual consultation.

Ethical issues that arose in the recent presidential election drew the attention of the **Orthodox Jewish-Catholic Consultation**, October 27, in New York City. The priests and rabbis at the consultation noted that Jews and Christians share a sacred responsibility to protect and care for one’s neighbor. The consultation includes representatives of the Orthodox Union (OU), the Rabbinical Council of America, and the USCCB. Co-chaired by Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, and Rabbi Fabian Schoenfeld of Young Israel Synagogue in Kew Gardens Hills, New York, the meeting addressed the challenges facing people of faith in a religiously pluralistic and democratic society. Presentations representing the Catholic and Orthodox Jewish perspectives highlighted the role of faith traditions in forming consciences that allow people to exercise responsible citizenship. Previous meetings of the USCCB-OU Consultation have addressed antireligious bias in the media, Middle East peace initiatives, school choice and education tax credits, and the defense of marriage as the union of one man and one woman. According to a statement released last September,

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Bishops' Committee

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Catholics and Orthodox Jews can say together that the efforts of courts and legislatures to broaden the definition of marriage to include same-sex unions is harmful to both family life and the common good of society.

Also of note since the last meeting of the Administration Committee are the following developments in Catholic-Jewish relations: (1) a meeting in Budapest between the Holy See and the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations during the week of our plenary (November 9–13); (2) further revisions of a joint statement by the Committees on Doctrine and Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs clarifying the ambiguities in **Reflections on Covenant and Mission** (2002), which is being proposed to the Administration Committee for review; and (3) Jewish reactions to the lifting of the censure of excommunications of the four bishops from the Priestly Society of St. Pius X in the wake of Bishop Richard Williamson's offensive statements denying the scope of the Holocaust. Our committee is grateful for the forceful statement published by our President Cardinal Francis George on February 3, 2009:

Pope Benedict XVI has lifted the personal penalty of excommunication incurred by four schismatic bishops belonging to the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X, founded by the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. This gesture on the part of the Holy Father was an act of mercy and personal concern for the ordained and lay members of this Society and was meant to coincide with the fiftieth commemoration of the convening of the Second Vatican Council.

The Holy Father's lifting of the excommunications is but a first step toward receiving these four bishops, and the priests who serve under them, back into full communion with the Catholic Church. If these bishops are to exercise their ministry as true teachers and pastors of the Catholic Church, they, like all Catholic bishops, will have to give their assent to all that the Church professes, including the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

As is now widely known, one of the four bishops, Richard Williamson, has recently made some deeply offensive and utterly false statements about the Holocaust of the Second World War. Bishop Williamson has denied historical facts about the Shoah, in which six million Jews were cruelly annihilated, innocent victims of blind racial and religious hatred. These comments have evoked understandable outrage from within the Jewish community and also from among our own Catholic people. No Catholic, whether lay person, priest or bishop can ever negate the memory of the Shoah, just as no Catholic should ever tolerate expressions of anti-Semitism and religious bigotry.

I make my own the words of the Holy Father spoken at the General Audience on January 28, 2009: “[May] the Shoah show both old and new generations that only the arduous path of listening and dialogue, of love and forgiveness, can lead peoples, cultures and religions of the world to the longed-for goal of fraternity and peace, in truth. May violence never again humiliate man's dignity.” We Catholic bishops in the United States are as committed as ever to building bonds of trust and mutual understanding with our elder brothers and sisters, the Jewish people, so that together with them we may be a blessing to the world.

Institute for Ecumenical Leadership

In response to the need for formation in Christian unity, the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (CADEIO) is once again offering the Institute for Ecumenical Leadership to be held at Mercy Center in St. Louis, Missouri, August 3–10, 2009. Although no longer coordinated by the CEIA's secretariat, the institute enjoys the support of our members and some assistance from our staff. The institute focuses primarily on new ecumenical and interreligious officers and commission members, but it is also open to other diocesan leaders, members of religious orders, seminarians, theology students, and interested laity. Presenters include Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC, formerly of the SEIA, and Msgr. Jack Radano, who served as

the Undersecretary at the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity from 1981 to 2008.

Reformed Christians

The most recent dialogue meeting of the Catholic-Reformed Consultation, co-chaired by Bishop Patrick Cooney and Rev. Richard Mouw of Fuller Theological Seminary, was held on February 11–12, 2009, at Fuller. This consultation places the Catholic Church in the United States in dialogue with four principal Reformed bodies: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ, Christian Reformed Church, and the Reformed Church in America. The participants presented and discussed separate drafts of a document on the Eucharist. The document in its final form will address the following key areas in ecumenical discussion: action of the Holy Spirit in Eucharistic celebration; remembrance (anamnesis); the presence of Christ in Eucharistic action and species; whether the Eucharist is “offered” by the worshiping assembly; and discipleship as fruit of Eucharistic celebration. The document will include a statement identifying areas of agreement, pastoral recommendations, and an analysis of outstanding theological divergences that could be addressed in future dialogues. The document in its final form is expected to be adopted by the dialogue in the Fall of 2010, at which point the work of the seventh round will conclude in accordance with its mandate.

The seventh round has already completed a “Common Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Baptism” (spring of 2008), a topic recommended to this dialogue by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity at its 2002 plenary. At the present time, our USCCB Committees on Doctrine and Pastoral Practice and on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance are reviewing the “Common Agreement” in view of previously stated concerns about terminology and baptismal practices in the Reformed communities. Our own committee looks forward to the final reception and publication of the document in 2009–2010.

Relations with Muslims

The **West Coast Muslim-Catholic Dialogue** has been exploring scriptural narratives in comparative perspective. The approach has been to make use of

our respective traditions of interpretation to disclose common themes of theological and moral teaching. In addition, the place of scriptural narratives in the life of our respective communities has been presented, with particular attention to the formation of young people in the Catholic and Muslim religions. The most recent meeting was held at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, on May 27–28, 2008, with Bishop Carlos Sevilla as Catholic co-chair. Our ongoing study of Qur’anic and Biblical narratives examined the foundational figure of Ibrahim/Abraham. Discussion helped to clarify what an “Abrahamic” religion is. Muslims see Abraham as an exemplary leader, a “friend of God” and an ancestor of Muhammad through Ishmael. Christians, on the other hand, have not emphasized the prophetic character of Abraham and have seen the “promise of the land” transformed into hope for the Kingdom of God. Christians continue to emphasize a spiritual connection with Abraham because of his faithfulness and his role in salvation history, preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ.

One goal of this dialogue is to create a resource to stimulate local dialogues and action groups that are based on papers presented since 2005. In response to the call by Muslim participants for more concrete forms of collaboration on contemporary issues, all participants suggested specific forms of ongoing contact between regional meetings. Muslim participants also asked that Catholics support the Shura Council’s decision to oppose the California Supreme Court’s approval of same-sex marriage. Catholic participants agreed to make available recent USCCB documents on this topic and to network with the California Council of Bishops’ offices for social justice. The next meeting, slated for May 20–21, 2009, will explore “Migration in the Lives of Jesus and Muhammad.”

The **Midwest Muslim-Catholic Dialogue** adopted the following “Mission Statement” in its 2007 meeting:

Catholics and Muslims engage in interreligious dialogue because it is part of our core identities as people of faith. Our common belief in the one God of mercy and love calls us into relationship with one another; therefore we see our dialogue as a spiritual journey.

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Bishops' Committee

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Common ethical concerns compel us to take responsibility for our relationship within U.S. American society. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Islamic Society of North America [ISNA] sponsor our annual gathering of official representatives for formal dialogue on topics of mutual concern. Our Dialogue provides a forum for Muslim-Catholic discussion, critique, and exchange of information that is supportive of the programs of our respective institutions.

The most recent meeting of the dialogue convened in Northwest Indiana on October 26–28, 2008, thanks to the generous hospitality of the Diocese of Gary and the Northwest Indiana Islamic Center. Several presentations took up the topic: “In the Public Square: Muslims and Catholics on Religious Freedom.” Presentations were given at Calumet College of St. Joseph, at the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Gary, and at the Northwest Indiana Islamic Center.

Bishop Dale Melczek of Gary and Shayk Mongy El-Quesny of the Islamic Center welcomed participants to an enthusiastic public session and potluck supper on Sunday evening, October 26. The Northwest Indiana Islamic Center is a multicultural Muslim community that has distinguished itself by undertaking, together with the local Methodist and Catholic communities, the collection and distribution of surplus medicines to hospitals in various parts of the world.

The dialogue session on Monday opened with a message from the President of Calumet College of St. Joseph, Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer, who described the programs of this small but very diverse Catholic college. Fr. Thomas Baima, Provost of the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois, presented a paper entitled, “The Logic of Why: What the Declaration on Religious Freedom Contributes to the Idea of Religion in the Public Square.” Director of Communications and Community Outreach of the ISNA Mohamed Elsanousi continued the discussion of accommodation and religious freedom in American law with a chapter from his forthcoming dissertation, “Comparative Analysis of the American Legal

Structure as it Relates to Integration and Religious Accommodation with Islamic Law.” Both Catholic and Islamic notions of law and the human person presuppose a set of basic rights conferred by the Creator.

The immigration experience of Catholics and Muslims in the United States offers a broad range of comparative elements, as examined in the paper, “Can the Immigration of Catholics from Europe Be Instructive for Muslim-Americans?” by Dr. Daniel Lowery, Vice President for Academic Affairs of Calumet College of St. Joseph. The discussion of immigration disclosed some of the dynamism with which religious communities resist raw assimilation and contribute unanticipated values to a host society over long periods.

During the evening public session attended by Catholics and Muslims from the local communities, Dr. Syeed, who is National Director of ISNA, spoke on the recent document **A Common Word**, emanating from a distinguished group of Muslim scholars and directed to a broad spectrum of Christian leaders.

The planning session determined that the topic for the next dialogue, which will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on October 25–27, 2009, will be “The Nature of the Human Person.” The public session will highlight a presentation on “Faithful Citizenship: Catholic and Muslim Engagement in Civic Life.”

Buddhist Relations

The seventh meeting of our Zen/Ch’an–Catholic dialogue group in Northern California, co-chaired by Bishop John Wester, took place on January 21–24, 2009, at Ferngrove Cottages, Guerneville, California. The topic, “The Welcome Table” directed the attention of participants to the relationship between contemplative practice and community life in our traditions. The meeting was co-chaired by the Rev. Heng Sure of the Berkeley Buddhist Monastery and the Institute for World Religions, Berkeley, California, and by Bishop John C. Wester, Bishop of Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Ch’an Buddhist presentation focused on meditation experience, which was described as “recovering the natural state of the mind.” Prof. Martin Verhoeven of the Pacific School of Religion pointed out that in meditation “we are returning to the origin, not moving forward to ‘gain something.’” Heng Sure reflected on a statement on the environment from

the recent Gethsemane 3 Conference in Louisville, “Simple and Sufficient,” in which Buddhist and Christian monastics discussed what it means to live “an ecologically valid” way of life.

Owing to USCCB restructuring, the conference will no longer be sponsoring this dialogue. However, participants agreed to work together to reconstitute the dialogue regionally, with possible support from local diocesan agencies and from the Berkeley Buddhist-Christian Reading Group. A steering committee was designated to plan for this transition and to draft a narrative of the previous seven years of dialogue for posting on our respective websites.

Hindu Relations

The annual Vaishnava (Hindu)–Christian dialogue met April 18–19, 2008, to explore motivations from within our traditions for undertaking interreligious dialogue. Speakers were Rev. Clark Lobenstine of the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, DC, and Prof. Graham Schweig of Christopher Newport University. SEIA staff was unable to attend this most recent meeting because of commitments to the papal visit to the USA. In view of limitations in staff and budget, it has been determined that the SEIA will no longer be a cosponsor of this dialogue. Instead, an effort will be made to engage a broad spectrum of Hindu communities in the United States by means of informal consultations. Two such consultations have taken place in recent years and have proven to be beneficial to our church’s outreach to this community. The international-activist Swadhyaya Pariwar movement has been in conversation with the SEIA and participated in the April 17, 2008, Interreligious Gathering at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center with the Holy Father. Members of the Viswa Madhva Sangha met with Fr. Tiso and a representative of the Trenton Diocese on June 7 in Moorsetown, NJ.

Sikh Relations

The next Sikh-Catholic retreat is slated for May 29–31, 2009, in Columbus, Ohio. (The Sikh community in the United States is one of the most active and economically prosperous South Asian immigrant communities.) The topic of the meeting will be “The Nature of God: Convergence and Divergence in Our Spiritual Paths.” In view of the USCCB reorganization, the basic design and frequency of the Sikh

consultation will be similar to that of the Hindus and Buddhists: the local bishop of the diocese in which a meeting is to be held, or his delegate, would be asked to participate in, and perhaps help to organize, this kind of ad hoc consultation.

Bishops’ Advisory Group on Interreligious Relations

In response to the invitation of past CEIA chairman, Bishop Richard Sklba, and at the initiative of Bishop William Murphy, a group of 21 bishops have agreed to serve on an Advisory Group on Interreligious Relations, which was authorized by the committee at our Spring 2007 meeting. From time to time, their advice will be solicited through the SEIA. We also hope that the advisors will communicate their observations and concerns about interreligious relations in their respective dioceses and regions.

The advisory group has responded generously to three sets of questions:

1. Interreligious education in Catholic institutions in light of Muslim-Catholic relations.
2. Continued engagement of the USCCB with Religions for Peace–USA through SEIA.
3. Ways to promote education about peacemaking through interreligious dialogue, in accord with the principles and concerns of the Holy See.

Other News

The annual meeting of CADEIO, which coincides with the annual **National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU)**, will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, from Monday, April 27, to Thursday, April 30, 2009. We are pleased that the 2009 Catholic program will include seminars and presentations on “Recent Challenges to Catholic-Jewish Relations,” “Christian Personalism of Pope John Paul II,” “Responses to **Ut Unum Sint**,” “Latest Revelations in Catholic and Pentecostal Dialogue,” and “Implications for Catholics of the Orthodox-Anglican Cyprus Statement and Ratzinger’s **Church as Communion**.” For the NWCU seminars, we have enlisted several Catholic theologians such as Dr. Peter Casarella of DePaul University, who will speak on “Capacity of Faith—Latino-Catholic Perspective,” and Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson and vice-president of our conference, who is one of the presenters on “How Christian Faith

Ecumenical Networks Standing Committee of the National Council of Churches USA

by Rev. Joseph W. Witmer, liaison to ENSC

Winter 2009

The National Council of Churches (NCC) has begun a new quadrennium and has had only a preliminary committee meeting at this time. A working meeting will have taken place April 19–21, 2009, in Chicago (see the April 2009 report, which follows).

Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the NCC, has been chosen to be the staff person for the Ecumenical Networks Standing Committee (ENSC), which is considered a welcome opportunity for the work of the committee.

The next meeting of the ENSC will be in conjunction with the NCC General Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in November. At that time, Rev. Peg Chamberlin will become the President of the NCC. Peg is the long-time executive of the Minnesota Council of Churches and has much experience and knowledge of the ecumenical scene.

April 2009

Among the commissions and committees of the NCC is a unit that seeks to foster and develop ways to connect the NCC with state councils and ecumenical bodies at the regional and local level.

The NCC directs the ENSC to do the following:

- Discern the historic, present, and emerging gifts

of unity and justice from across the nations.

- Proclaim the needs for a generation of ecumenical commitment in and for the third millennium.
- Help the member communions and boards to

multifaceted, collaborative networking processes.

At its meeting in April, the ENSC decided to forward to the NCC general board a proposal for “protocols” whereby NCC staff members and bodies who travel or meet around the country would notify the local ecumenical bodies and executives so that full opportunities may be made for local interpretation and cooperation. Moreover, ecumenical bodies that are developing programs, etc., should not act independently and then try to “sell” the program to other bodies without allowing them involvement in the process.

The other major project is to develop an information process that might include a monthly e-newsletter, a place on the NCC website for regional and local ecumenism, an online directory, and profiles of local and regional ecumenism.

The NCC will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Edinburgh Conference at its fall General Assembly in November 2010 in New Orleans. They seek to involve State Ecumenical Executives in planning the celebration. Perhaps the event will attract members of the National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff as well as ecumenical officers.

A seminary intern, Mr. Ammon S. Ripple, is now the staff liaison with ENSC.

“The ENSC decided to forward to the NCC general board a proposal for ‘protocols’ whereby NCC staff members and bodies who travel or meet around the country would notify the local ecumenical bodies and executives so that full opportunities may be made for local interpretation and cooperation.”

build relationships with and among current and emerging local, state, regional, national, and global manifestations of the ecumenical movement.

- Establish and maintain active, ongoing,

Report on the 2009 Christian Churches Together Meeting

by Rt. Rev. Alexei Smith, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Some 90 representatives of the 43 participating Christian communions and national Christian organizations gathered in Baltimore, Maryland, January 13–16 for the Third Annual Meeting of Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT). We were joined for a day by 15 seminarians and young leaders representing the five families of churches: Evangelical/Pentecostal, Historic Protestant, Historic African American, Orthodox, and Catholic.

Our Catholic delegation has a new President, His Excellency Archbishop Wilton Gregory, who led us in worship on the final day of the meeting. Archbishop Gregory also asked that the assembly be addressed by Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of Pro-life Activities on the topic, the Freedom of Choice Act. She was to simply address the assembly as a matter of concern that the Catholic delegation sought to bring to the attention of the other delegates, with no discussion or consideration of her presentation to be made following it. This was a first for CCT and it was—for the most part—received as an indication that CCT is maturing to the point where one family of churches can bring to the floor a matter of concern that it deems important without any expectation of action to be taken by the other families of churches. It must be acknowledged, however,

that some delegates expressed dissatisfaction that, inasmuch as they disagreed entirely with the stance taken by the Catholic Church, there would be no discussion of the presentation, while others expressed objection to it being made altogether as inappropriate to the discussion topic of the meeting, domestic poverty.

The agenda items for this year's meeting were as follows:

- discerning the next steps in the development of CCT's domestic poverty initiative
- releasing a nonpartisan statement "Implementing the Call to Cut Poverty in Half" in Washington, DC
- conversing with congressional leaders and members of the Obama administration's transition team staff
- preparing for the 2010 annual meeting with a discussion about evangelism.

The nonpartisan statement regarding the elimination of domestic poverty was released at a news conference at the National Press Club given by the five presidents of CCT, who also met with the Obama administration transition team staff in an effort to keep domestic poverty front and center on the nation's agenda and on the agenda of the new administration. The statement includes the following sentence: "Although CCT does not give direction to or speak for its participating churches and organizations, we share these principles and ideas with the hope that they may serve to flesh out and guide the imple-

mentation of the four objectives in our 2008 "Statement on Poverty." (Both documents are available on the CCT website.)

Arrangements were made for each delegate to meet with his or her two senators (or their legislative assistants) and discuss with them CCT's call to cut poverty in half. We presented them with a booklet entitled **Poverty and the Poor in the Bible**, published by the American Bible Society, which contains the CCT "Statement on Poverty." That statement says, "Our common faith compels us. Christ our Lord teaches us that when we serve and stand with 'the least of these,' we serve and stand with Him. Our Bible teaches us in hundreds of places that the God we worship has a special concern for the poor. God judges individuals and societies by how they respond to the needs of the poor. As leaders in Christian Churches Together, we believe that a renewed commitment to overcome poverty is central to the mission of the church and essential to our unity in Christ."

In addition to regular participants, there were several observers present who represented the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, Coptic Orphans Support Association, Bridge of Hope, Mission America Coalition, and the Seventh Day Adventist General Conference. Sadly, neither the Greek Orthodox Church nor the Polish National Catholic Church sent delegates to the meeting this year.

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Faiths in the World Committee 2009 Report

by Fr. Phil Latronico, Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

The Faiths in the World Committee of CADEIO held their annual working meeting at the Cenacle in Chicago, Oct. 14–16, 2008. The meeting was attended by Rev. Philip Latronico, Rev. Robert Flannery, Rev. Francis (Butch) Mazur, Donald Mitchell, Rev. Thomas Ryan, Rev. Francis Tiso, Rev. Thomas Baima, Sr. Josephine Kase, Judi Longdin, Loretta Tracy, Scott Alexander, Rev. John Pawlikowski, and Rita George.

The group assembled to discuss the status of interfaith and interreligious dialogue in the United States. The initial night of meeting consisted on an update of events the committee was aware of throughout the United States. The main trend seemed to be a downsizing of many of the dialogues on account of finances and changing players. It was also noted that many new groups have been coming forward to enter the dialogue. Special note was made of the growing presence of new partners from the Muslim community (the Turkish Gulan Movement, and Ahmadia from Pakistan). It was noted that we needed to let each group's participation in dialogue be assessed by the parent religion from which the new group originated.

During the discussion, Sr. Josephine announced that she would be stepping down as chair of the committee and moving on to a new ministry. This would necessitate our selecting a new co-chair. The next day, we discussed who would co-chair with Don

Mitchell, and Fr. Phil Latronico was unanimously elected. Loretta Tracy was elected unanimously to be secretary.

We also spent time brainstorming possible topics for the CADEIO seminars at the National Workshop on Christian Unity (see sidebar).

As we continued to assess the current status of interfaith and interreligious dialogue, we noted that we needed to do the following:

- constantly evaluate the evolving moods in the various levels of dialogue with the various Muslim communities
- continue to establish dialogue groups with both the Buddhist and Hindu communities
- heighten our awareness of the various interreligious circles working for peace
- continue to develop forms of interreligious prayer that can be adapted for the various local contexts
- continue to be aware of the various media blitzes that occur from time to time and be prepared to help the local ecumenical and interreligious officer respond (for example, **Obsession**, a DVD on radical Islam).

The group concluded by setting aside Oct. 13–15, 2009, for its next meeting at the Chicago Cenacle. All wished Sr. Josephine well in her next endeavor.

Topics Suggested by the Faiths in the World Committee for CADEIO Workshops at the NWCU

- Catholic and Muslim Marriage: Models of Preparation and Mentoring.
⇒ Suggested Speaker: Rita George
- Mission, Evangelization, Proselytism: What “We” Mean and What “They” Hear!
⇒ Rationale: Ecumenical and Interreligious Interpretations
⇒ Document: **Dialogue and Proclamation**
- World Muslim Leaders Speaking with One Voice:
⇒ **Love of God and Love of Neighbor**
- Interreligious Community at the Service of Community Building: Limits and Possibilities of Regional Interreligious Associations
⇒ Suggested Speaker: Rev. Clark Lobenstine (Presbyterian)
- Building Interfaith Consensus on a Consistent Ethic of Life: Conversations on the Death Penalty
- Religious Diversity in the Work Place—Challenges and Possibilities
- The Formation of Youth for Interreligious Encounters

Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network Liaison Report

by Judi Longdin, liaison to LERN

The Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network (LERN) Board met during the 2008 National Workshop on Christian Unity in Chicago. I was able to join with them for portions of their business gatherings. I also had the opportunity to visit the ecumenical offices at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) headquarters and was invited to join the board in a celebration of the Eucharist, also at the ELCA headquarters.

A significant fact for LERN is that President Dr. Rocky Piro and Vice-President Diane Lowe are laypeople.

Among the agenda items for the LERN network were ongoing conversations regarding communication and the development of resources. A draft copy of the "LERN Manual" was distributed to the Board. In addition to discussion of the manual, the group discussed the **LERNing** newsletter and the development of a blog. The expectation is that **LERNing** will be published five times per year, possibly as part of the

national office publication **Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Life**.

The LERN board continues to meet by means of a conference call system, which allows them to log on to a computer and engage one another visually. (I learned at the National Workshop that the visual element is not currently in use.)

Discussions are under way to develop liaisons to other networks, such as CADEIO and Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO), to the National Workshop, and to internal programs and committees of the ELCA, such as **LERNing** and the ELCA ecumenical office. A communication position is also being considered, which would allow a member of LERN to communicate with and advise the national office, for instance regarding what LERN would find helpful on the website. Work is ongoing to define liaison roles clearly.

In addition to the Chicago meeting, I was able to attend the EDEIO meeting in Del Ray. Two Lutheran delegates, Rocky Piro

and Rev. Chris Olkiewicz, were also present.

At both the Chicago meeting and the Del Ray meeting, the Student Essay Contest was addressed. Several significant issues were raised:

- clarity of the question
- clear expectation of students
- uniform guidelines for judging essays
- agreement of the topic and question at the National Workshop if possible
- early notification to seminaries, colleges, and universities.

One issue that may need to be addressed as other networks are developed is whether we can continue to have one winner from each network, which has the potential to become unwieldy as new networks develop.

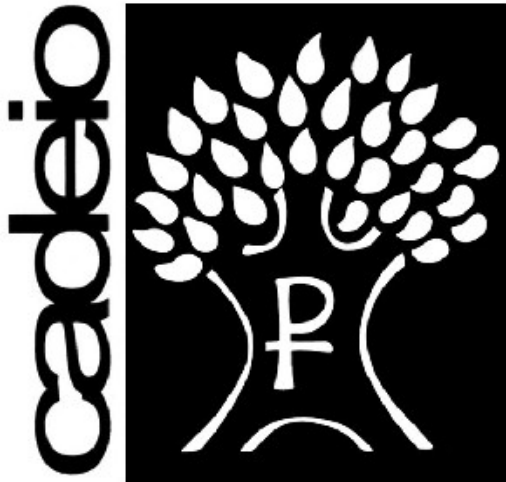
An additional topic considered at the Del Ray meeting was how we might encourage greater mingling among network members, particularly during the workshop luncheons.

Christian Churches Together

(Continued from page 19)

I have been appointed the Catholic member of the CCT Criteria Committee. we are dealing with the following issues:

- How do we deal with participant churches and organizations that are not living up to their commitment to CCT (e.g., payment of annual dues and presence at annual meetings?)
- Seeing that our bylaws provide for only 20% of our participants to be Christian organizations (80% are to be churches), how do we set priorities for approval and recruitment of such Christian organizations?



“One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism.” Eph. 4:5

Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers
www.cadeio.org

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The Purposes of CADEIO

- 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 for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and other ecumenical and interreligious agencies.

Upcoming Events

- Institute for Ecumenical Leadership at Mercy Center, St. Louis, Missouri, August 3–10, 2009.
- North American Academy of Ecumenists, September 25–27, 2009, Washington, DC
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18–25, 2010: “**You Are Witnesses of These Things**” (Luke 24:48)
- National Workshop on Christian Unity, April 19–22, 2010, Tampa, Florida

Membership Application

- Enclosed is \$10 (payable to CADEIO) for an associate membership.
- Enclosed is \$200 (payable to CADEIO) for a full membership (see criteria at http://www.cadeio.org/index_files/Page338.htm).

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