Cardinal Keeler Receives Fitzgerald Award
by Leo Walsh

During the 2007 National Workshop on Christian Unity, the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers bestowed the James Fitzgerald Award on His Eminence, William Cardinal Keeler. The Fitzgerald Award is given by CADEIO each year for distinguished service to the ecumenical movement.

It has been said that no living American hierarch has done more for the ecumenical movement than our honoree. Now in his 75th year, William Cardinal Keeler has chaired the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, (BCEIA) served on innumerable dialogues, held terms as a member of the BCEIA and the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, (PCPCU) and has been a leader in promoting ecumenical relations as a significant aspect of his ministry as bishop. Cardinal Keeler leaves a deep personal imprint on and an unmatched legacy for Catholic involvement in ecumenism as well as in relations Jews and interreligious relations in the United States.

Like Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, his predecessor as Archbishop of Baltimore who was the first to receive the Fitzgerald Award, Cardinal Keeler was a pioneer in the ecumenical movement. As a priest secretary at the Second Vatican Council, he assisted the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity staff, translating and explaining the progress and content of its four conciliar acts. The Rev. John F. Long, S.J., a close friend, often mentioned young Fr. Keeler's assistance, as did the Rev. Thomas Stansky, C.S.P., an original member of the Secretariat staff.

Elected as BCEIA chair in 1983 while Bishop of Harrisburg, then Bishop Keeler began attending the National Workshop on Christian Unity and was the first to assume the role of briefing the members of National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers (NADEO as it was then known) of trends and progress in ecumenical and interreligious affairs. Under his leadership, BCEIA plans, programs and budget were expanded in 1986 for professional and support staff to promote interreligious relations. As Archbishop of Baltimore from 1989, as President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference from 1993-1996, and as a PCPCU member since 1996, he has kept this work on the center stage of American Catholic life. He has personally insured the participation of U.S. ecumenical, Jewish and interreligious representatives in papal visits to the USA and in visits and events in Rome. Keeping the work alive through speaking, writing, personal availability, especially as first friend of the American Jewish community, the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers could find no finer candidate this year for the Fitzgerald Award among those who yearn for the unity of Christians and reconciliation of all peoples of faith.
President’s Letter by Fr. Robert Flannery

Dear CADEIO Colleagues,

Our recent 2007 National Workshop for Christian Unity, held in Arlington, Virginia, was very worthwhile and successful for the overall NWCU meeting as well as for the CADEIO segment. Attendance was up in both the general conference and the CADEIO Catholic Program. We thank Fathers Don Rooney and Paul Lee, ecumenical and interreligious officers for Arlington and Washington, D.C. respectively, for arranging all of the Catholic events and for serving on the Local Planning Committee for the entire gathering.

Our CADEIO Catholic Program was well received by those who were able to attend. Keynote, Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC’ presentation set the stage with a synopsis of where we have been, where we are, and where we are going in the ecumenical world. Bishop Brian Farrell, Secretary of the Holy See’s Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity was well versed about Pope Benedict’s Ecumenism, but also helped us see what is happening in the universal Church ecumenically. Bishop Farrell also was gracious to spend part of his time sharing with at our Board of Directors’ Meeting held at the USCCB in Washington on Monday afternoon. The Fitzgerald Award was given to well-deserving Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore. Also in attendance at the CADEIO luncheon was Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop-Emeritus of Washington, D.C. We thank Archbishop Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, D.C., and Bishop Paul Loverde, of Arlington, for presiding and preaching at the CADEIO Eucharist, and also Dr. John Borelli and Georgetown University for hosting us at Dahlgren Chapel. The three CADEIO Seminars: “Pastoral Issues in Orthodox-Catholic Marriages” with Fr. Charles Joanides and Dr. John Borelli; “Dialogues: The Process, Status, Tensions and Blessings” with Bishop Richard Sklba, and Fr. Francis Sullivan, SJ; and “Utilizing Ecumenical & Interfaith Structures for Formation on the Local Level” with Fr. Dennis McManus and Reverend Bud Heckman—were all very helpful and received great accolades from our participants. Please consider ordering the audio recordings of these great seminars if you were not able to be present. As your President, I want to thank our Board of Directors for their great suggestions and input last year which put together such an impressive and information Catholic Program again this year.

At the CADEIO General Assembly on Wednesday, the nominating slate provided by the nominating committee (Chair, Monsignor Charles King, Diocese of Fort Worth) was accepted, and the following individuals were elected executive officers for the next three years: President: Father Robert Flannery, Diocese of Belleville, (for a second and final three-year term as president); Vice-President: Monsignor George Apppleyard, Eparchy of St. Joseph, (for a first three-year term as vice-president, also serving as recording scribe); Secretary: Father Don Rooney, Diocese of Arlington, (for a first three-year term as secretary responsible for maintaining the CADEIO roster and graphic designer for the Association’s literature and brochures); and Treasurer: Father Joseph Wallace, Diocese of Camden, (continuing on as treasurer for another three years).

The three other newly-elected executive officers and myself want to thank all of those present at the Assembly for your vote of trust and confidence. We promise to do our best in serving the needs of our Catholic ecumenical and interreligious family through our Association. Once again, our entire Association thanks our outgoing Vice-President, Monsignor Dennis Mikulansis from the Diocese of San Diego, for his excellent work as our vice-president for three years. Dennis did not accept another term because of growing responsibilities in his parish. Dennis, with the assistance of his parish staff, did an excellent job in maintaining our CADEIO Roster as well as securing and presenting the plaques of appreciation for our former NADEO living presidents--Father John McDonnell, Father Ernest Falladeu, Archbishop Alex Burnett, Father Vince Heir, and Ms. Garland Pohl—and helped our Association tremendously by sharing his countless wisdom in his role as an executive officer.

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The following members of the Committee were present: Dr. Schot C. Alexander, Rev. Thomas A. Baima, Rev. Joseph Hilsinski, Sr. Josephine Kase IHM, Rev. Philip Latronico, Ms. Judith A. Longdin, Rev. Francis X. (Butch) Mazur, Professor Donald Mitchell, Rev. Thomas Ryan CSP, and Rita George Tvrkotnik. Rev. Francis V. Tiso of the SEIA was also in attendance. Rev. John Pawlikowski OSM was excused as he was at a meeting in Europe.

The first night of the meeting was spent in sharing stories of activities of the membership since our meeting at the NWCU as San Jose, CA. As can be imagined, most of the conversation also revolved around our activities concerning Pope Benedict XVI’s address at the University of Regensburg. This later conversation continued the next day when we looked at ways we might more constructively help the membership of CADEIO receive information in a time of need. We noted in our discussions how we were all in a large information loop due to our personal contacts within the world of interreligious dialogue, but also noted how many were not part of this loop. This discussion led to conversations about the CADEIO web site, our using that site in the FAITHS IN THE WORLD COMMITTEE LINK to help the CADEIO membership have accurate and updated information. In our discussion we noted that the relationship formed in the past greatly assisted the continuance of the dialogue in the midst of a time of wavering trust and disturbance. We also saw that our local relationship helped form some of the responses to Regensburg as our Muslim partners in dialogue sought us out to better understand the pope’s statements.

As the meeting moved along we looked at some of the successful events of 2006. Butch spoke of the successful visit of the Dali Lama with approximately 40,000 people in attendance at the lecture. Butch continues to do a series on the Muslim Station on Bridges TV. Sr. Josephine noted the growth of the Interfaith Center in Philadelphia. Fr. Phil shared about the growing Brotherhood/Sisterhood Association throughout the Newark Archdiocese, and the expanding of the Teacher to Teacher Events beyond the Catholic and Jewish Communities to include the Protestant and Muslim Communities. Judi shared about the ongoing work with educators in Milwaukee and the development of Educator’s Trunks (a box containing holocaust materials and information) and perhaps the need to develop an Interreligious Education’s Trunk. Fr. Tom Ryan shared that his work on guidelines for interreligious prayer would be published by Paulist Press in January, 2008. Fr. Tiso said all the local Muslim Dialogues would be moving ahead to new topics as all were completed their first round of discussions.

We discussed the newsletter and the need to send Fr. Tom Baima information for the third letter each year. We prepared suggestions for workshops for the 2008 NWCU (located at the bottom of this sheet). Finally we discussed the possibility of developing dialogue with the Sikh Community.

Our next meetings are: January 31, 2007 at the NWCU in Washington DC and October 16-18, 2007 at Cenacle Retreat, Chicago.

Garland Pohl acknowledges Order of St. Lazarus

On Sunday morning, October 15th, Garland Pohl, immediate past president of NADEO (now CADEIO) attended the ecumenical worship service held at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, TX, in conjunction with the meeting of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem. She was introduced there and at the breakfast which followed where she had the opportunity to thank the members of the Order for budgeting a generous amount of money to help with the National Workshop on Christian Unity. For the past few years the Order has underwritten the cost of the keynote speaker, and will do so again at this year's NWCU in Washington, DC.

Contact: George Appleyard
At the 2006 annual NADEO Meeting in San Jose, California (held in conjunction with the National Workshop on Christian Unity) those members of the Committee in attendance held their usual session, providing an update on the state of the relation from the various perspectives around the country.

Throughout the past year the Chair of the Committee kept in verbal and written communication with the membership, supplying timely updates and resources, as well as significant printed materials.

Representing CADEIO, the Chair of this Committee is honored to serve as a member of the USCCB Advisory Board for Jewish-Catholic Relations and, as such, to participate in regular Consultations between delegates of the National Council of Synagogues (representing Conservative, Reconstructionist and Reform Judaism) and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. The Consultation, which has been meeting twice-yearly since 1987, is co-chaired by Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore and Rabbi Joel Zaiman of Baltimore. Dr. Eugene Fisher and Rabbi Gilbert S. Rosenthal serve as staff to the Consultation Committee.

The spring 2006 meeting of the Catholic-Jewish Consultation Committee (National Council of Synagogues / BCEIA) was held at the Hebrew Union College / Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City on 22 May 2006. The morning session included prayer and a moment of silence dedicated to the memory of late Sister Rose Ther- ing, OP, a much beloved and dedicated pioneer in the field of Catholic-Jewish relations in the USA and around the world.

This Consultation session focused on a discussion of Mutual Borrowings over the Centuries, with reflections presented by Fr. Francis Tiso of the USCCB Secretariat staff in Washington and Professor Byron Sherwin of the Spertus College of Judaica in Chicago. The mutual influence on each others' religious and spiritual traditions over the centuries, with special focus on the influence of Christianity and Islam on Jewish mystical tradition in Spain, in the Zohar and through it on Hassidic mysticism in later centuries was highlighted. Varied topics of mutual concern were discussed in the afternoon session including the situation in the Middle East, the first year of the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI, the movie The Da Vinci Code, the US enforcement of pornography laws and the moral aspects of US immigration policies. Following this meeting an extended Joint Communiqué and a List of Participants was issued on their site by the Office of Media Relations of the USCCB.

On 26 October (in conjunction with a regional meeting of CADEIO) the Chair met with Sister Josephine Kase, IHM (The Archdiocese of Philadelphia), the Co-Chair of the Faiths of the World Committee of CADEIO, and discussed the feasibility and direction of a possible nationwide review of observances relating to the Fortieth Anniversary of Nostra Aetate [See USCCB Advisory Board Meeting of 11 April 2006]. Fr. Philip Latronico (the Archdiocese of Newark), of CADEIO's Research and Development, participated in this discussion. Sister Josephine subsequently communicated with her committee and received encouragement and support for such a review of the various Interreligious Observances.

A subsequent meeting was arranged in early January 2007 between the Chair and Fr. Latronico to discuss the parameters of the envisioned review; it is anticipated that a final draft of the survey can be approved at the time of the CADEIO meeting in Virginia.

The Chair was fortunate to attend the 13th Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture sponsored by the (Seton Hall University's) Institute of Judaico-Christian Relations on 5 November 2006. The yearly Lecture and subsequent Reception acknowledge the contributions of the legendary Monsignor Oesterreicher to continuing Jewish – Christian Understanding. This year’s Memorial Lecture, The Prophet Elijah in Jewish – Christian Traditions, was jointly presented by

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As your re-elected CADEIO President—abiding by our revised By-Laws from last year which state that no chair of a committee may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms—I have appointed these individuals as the chairs of the following committees: Faiths In the World—Sister Josephine Kase, IHM, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, for her second and final three-year term; Jewish/Catholic Relations: Monsignor Donald Beckmann, Diocese of Rockville Center, for his first three-year term; LERN Liaison (Lutheran Ecumenical Representative Network): Judi Longdin, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, for her first three-year term; EDEIO Liaison (Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Officers)—Father Michael Kavanaugh, Diocese of Savannah, for his first three-year term; National Council of Churches in Christ (NCCC) Liaison: Father Joseph Witmer, Diocese of Youngstown, for his first three-year term; Fitzgerald Award: Father Charles Farr, Diocese of Paterson, for his first three-year term; Research and Development: Father Phil Latrónico, Archdiocese of Newark, for his second and final three-year term.

Upon my recommendation and with the vote and approval of the General Assembly gathered in Arlington, it was also decided to officially list as CADEIO Committees the following which, along with those listed above, already have their chairs in attendance at the regular Executive Board of Directors Meetings. These are the chairs I have appointed as your President to lead the newly listed committees: the newly fully-organized Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT-USA): Father Alexis Smith, Archdiocese of Los Angeles; the newly established Finance Committee: Father Leo Walsh, Archdiocese of Anchorage, for his first three-year term; Newsletter: Father Thomas Baima, Archdiocese of Chicago, continuing on as editor; Website: Jason Renken, Archdiocese of Chicago, and A.J. Boyd, Archdiocese of Seattle, continuing on as webmasters; Bookstore/Registration/Institutes: Father Vincent Heier, Archdiocese of Saint Louis, continuing on as coordinator; the newly established Nominating Committee: Ms. Garland Pohl, Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston for a 3-year term.

As an Association, we want to thank the outgoing chairs of the following committees -- LERN, Monsignor Donald Beckmann; EDEIO, Father Vincent Heier; NCCC, Father Joseph Wallace; Fitzgerald Award, Father Leo Walsh; and Jewish/Catholic Relations: Father Charles Parr—for the great work they accomplished during their six or more years of service in their respective committees. We also thank Monsignor Charles King for being willing to serve as head of the Nominating Committee for one short term. As your CADEIO President, I was happy to be part of the formulating stages of CCT-USA for three years. However, due to my other time away from the parish relating to my role as your President, and in order to have other CADEIO members experience this great new phenomenon, I have asked Father Alexis Smith—who was able to be at the CCT-USA Formalizing Ceremony in Los Angeles last month—to be our CADEIO Liaison to CCT for three years. I believe it is good that our Revised By-Laws assist us in getting new individuals on the board and for people to get to know a variety of the areas in the ecumenical/interreligious arena.

At both the Executive Officers Committee and the Executive Board of Directors’ Meeting, I put forth the suggestion that we include a young ecumenist on our Board of Directors as the other three denominational networks presently do. It was decided—because of logistics, costs and practicality—that in whatever city or location the Workshop is held that we invite a young ecumenist (seminarian, theology student or whoever is decided upon by the local Catholic officer) to be part of the Board of Directors’ meetings on Monday morning and afternoon as well as on Thursday afternoon. This will allow young ecumenists from around the country to be involved with our CADEIO Association.

For all those who have attended the initial or introductory Institute for Ecumenical Leadership, please strongly consider attending our upcoming Advanced Institute to be held in Garrison, New York at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center. It will be held from the evening of Sunday, August 5, through Saturday morning, August 11. The presenters will be Brother Jeff Gros, Father Ron Roberson, Dr. Michael Root, and Rev. Dr. Mel Robeck. The institute will provide further training to include the latest and most significant changes affecting the work of ecumenical/interreligious officers and commission members. Besides the presentations each day there will be on-site visits to a nearby Orthodox seminary, an Evangelical Seminary, and Maryknoll. Other excursions will be available to other points of interest in the Hudson Valley area including a Buddhist monastery, West Point, Fr. Teilhard de Chardin’s grave.

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site and New York City. This will definitely be a unique Institute because of its format. Those who have attended the Advanced Institute previously are encouraged to attend again since the material covered and on-site opportunities are new to this experience. Scholarship money is available. Please register as soon as you are able to help us finalize the arrangements.

As this is the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the Orientale Lumen Conferences by “Archimandrite” Jack Figel of Fairfax, Virginia, I commissioned our CADEIO graphic artist, Father Don Rooney, to design a proclamation stating our Association’s profound appreciate to Jack for his vision and foresight in establishing this highly useful ecumenical tool in bringing about a great understanding and working relationship with the Orthodox, Eastern and Latin Catholic Churches. The Proclamation was presented to Jack during the recent General Assembly meeting in Arlington. The Orientale Lumen conferences have been held during the past ten years in Washington, D.C., San Diego, California, and also in Melbourne, Australia; Birmingham, England; London, England; and Istanbul (Constantinople), Turkey. If you have not had the opportunity to attend one of the conferences, it is very much worthwhile. Your new CADEIO secretary, Father Don Rooney, and I will be attending the Euro-East II gathering this May in Turkey.

Please mark your calendars now for next year’s National Workshop which will be held in Chicago from April 14 to 17, 2008.

The Local Planning Committee is off to a good start and both the NWCU and CADEIO seminars, presenters, and venues will be of great interest.

Please Note Well: At the CADEIO Board of Director’s meeting this year as well as at the General Assembly session—that as a measure of saving money and for convenience and timeliness sake—we will from now on be sending our CADEIO Newsletter, and most of our communications out to full and associate members in an electronic format. Therefore the recently mailed notice from our new Secretary, Father Don Rooney, requesting all of your contact information (ESPECIALLY YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS!), is critical for this process to be effective and work. Please return the form sent to you as soon as possible since communications come to me on a regular basis and I would like to pass them on to you for your immediate information. We also will be putting the revised CADEIO Roster on our CADEIO Website (www.cadeio.org) allowing you to know the other ecumenical/interreligious officers in our Association. We also hope to put the Associates in our roster, so we ask associates to give us their information as well designating their status as associates. The Associate Dues are $10 and can be sent to our CADEIO Treasurer, Father Joe Wallace, who is listed on our Website. When your email address changes, we ask you to inform us of the change so you will not be left out of the loop. Our Secretary, Father Don Rooney’s contact information, for Associates or others who may not have it is:

1009 Stafford Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

Phone:
540-373-6663

email:
frrooney@immaculate-mary.org

If you do not have email, please let us know that so we can send the main information to you through the postal system. If you have a fax, please let us know that as well.

Well, I know this has been a long letter from me as I attempt to keep you up on all the latest happenings in our CADEIO Association. Thank you for all you continue to do in promoting ecumenical and interreligious life in your dioceses/eparchies and in our country. Many of you are part-time in your position, like myself, so I know it is not always easy.

May you all have an enriching remainder of Lent followed by a joy-filled Easter Season!

God’s Peace,

Bob

Fr. Bob Flannery
CADEIO President
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TOGETHER in the USA
by Fr. Robert Flannery

The next annual gathering for CCT-USA will be held February 6 to 9, 2007 in Pasadena California. The conference sites are the Lake Avenue Church and the Pasadena Sheraton Hotel. Presentations will be made by five families on the message and task of evangelization in the light of Luke 4. The first full day of this year’s gathering is called Seminarian Day where all the member churches have been encouraged to identify and invite seminary students to attend. In the evening of that same day, there will be a Service of Celebration and Commitment, which is the official ceremonial beginning of CCT-USA. Pastors, church leaders and seminarians in the greater Pasadena have been invited to be present for this special event.

There will be worship each day of the three-day conference with the leadership given by one of the five faith families. The first evening of the meeting will be spent by having a welcome meal, renewing friendships, and the introduction to the meeting and theme. On the second full day, a discussion of the CCT Poverty Initiatives discussed at the last meeting will be held. Also to be discussed will be “what we can do together” in evangelization? Lastly to be talked about will be the next steps for CCT. On the final morning, there will be decisions made about the Poverty Initiatives, follow-up action on Evangelization, and Brainstorming on the 2008 Annual Meeting.

Christian Churches Together in the USA was officially organized during the Atlanta meeting, March 28 to 31, 2006. A group of Christians from various denominations began meeting in 2001 at the invitation of Cardinal William Keller of Baltimore and at the urging of a variety of denominational leaders who desired a forum for a broader spectrum of Christian traditions to be at one talk, that included in particular Evangelicals and Catholics who are not formally a part of the National Council of Churches in Christ — USA.

Thirty-four churches and national Christian organizations, representing over 100 million Americans, have formed CCT-USA — the broadest, most inclusive fellowship of Christian churches and traditions in our country. Its mission is “to enable churches and Christian organizations to grow closer together in Christ in order to strengthen our Christian witness in the world.” National leaders from five Christian families — Evangelical/Pentecostal, Historic Protestant, Historic Racial/Ethnic, Orthodox and Catholic — made the monumental decision to officially begin, culmination a process of six meetings that begin in 2001 in Baltimore having been convened by Cardinal Keller. Throughout its formational stages, Christian Churches Together has given priority to sharing in prayer and worship, building relationships of trust and discerning the challenges of more faithful Christian witness that need to be addressed in society.

The Catholic bishops of the United States voted to participate in Christian Churches Together at their November 2004 meeting. As President of CADEIO (then NADEO), Father Robert Flannery, was asked to be part of the twelve-member Catholic delegation and attended the planning meeting in Lost Altos in June of 2005, in Atlanta in March of 2006, and will be in attendance at 2007 meeting in Pasadena, February 6 to 9.

The USCCB delegation is headed by Bishop Stephen E. Blair of Stockton, a former Chair of the Bishops’ Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. The other members of the delegation besides Father Flannery and Bishop Blair are Father James Massa, Director of the SEIA; Bishop Todd Brown of Orange, and former BCEIA Chair; Bishop Nicolas Samra of the Eastern Catholics; Ms. Sheila Garcia, Committees on Laity and Women, USCCB; Ms. Cynthia Morris-Colbert, Committee on African American Catholics, USCCB; Sister Ana Maria Pineda, RSM of Santa Clara University; Father Ronald Roberson, Associate Director of the SEIA; Father Patrick Grandfield, OSB, Catholic University of America; Mr. Ronald Cruz, Committee on Hispanic Affairs, USCCB; Sister Joan Delaney, MM, Catholic Theological Union.

In accord with the structure of the new organization, the USCCB delegation chose Cardinal William Keller of Baltimore, Bishop Stephen Blaire, and Father Ronald Roberson, CSP as the three members of the CCT Steering Committee reserved for the Catholic family. Professor Ana Maria Pineda, RSM was also chosen as an at-large member of the Steering Committee.

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The Reverend James Boyce, O.Carm., PhD (Associate Professor and Chairperson in the Department of Art History and Music at Fordham University) and Rabbi Asher Finke (Professor in the Department of Jewish-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University). In this extraordinary example of interdisciplinary study, the special role of the prophet Elijah in the life of Israel and in the Church was highlighted as a model for profound prayer, peace-making and hope in the fulfillment of God’s plan. Aspects of Elijah’s example and work provided subjects for reflection on Jewish and Christian thought and liturgy.

On 4 December 2006 the Chair was again privileged to participate in a NCS / USCCB Consultation held at Saint Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore. The focus of discussion was *The Ethics of War in Catholic and Jewish Traditions, with particular emphasis on the Middle East*. Learned presentations were made by Dr. Stephen M. Colecchi, the Director of the Department of International Justice and Peace of the USCCB’s Committee on International Policy and Rabbi Gordon Tucker of Temple Israel Center of White Plains, New York and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Jewish Philosophy at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Throughout the meeting Mr. Jack Stein attempted to facilitate a Conference Call between the assembled group and the office of Prime Minister in Israel to discuss the status of the implementation of the Vatican-Israel Fundamental Agreement (1993). Following lunch a call was ultimately arranged with Benjamin Kahane, a Deputy Consul from the Office of the Consul General in New York.

Additional issues presented at this meeting included an exchange of information concerning the 10th Meeting of the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee in Cape Town, South Africa; the Joint Statement on School Choice of the BCEIA and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (25 October 2006); the possibility for the distribution of pamphlets *John Paul II and the Jews* to every school and schul; and, a proposed Catholic-Jewish Lay Study Trip to Rome (October 2007).

On 14 December 2006 Cardinal Keeler, the Episcopal Moderator for Catholic-Jewish Relations for the USCCB, issued a Statement “condemning ‘revisionist history’ that seeks to minimize the horror of the Holocaust.” The Cardinal’s Statement made reference to a previous Statement issued by the Holy See which echoed the words of Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. As such, “The Catholic bishops of the United States stand in solidarity with the Universal Church....” The Vatican Statement, issued on 12 December 2006, was in reference to a conference sponsored by the government of Iran on 11-12 December 2006 entitled *Review of the Holocaust: Global Vision*, which sought to diminish the scope of the holocaust. Cardinal Keeler’s statement: *We must remember the Shoah* has been released on the website of the USCCB’s Office of Media Relations.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Parr

January 2007
Arlington, Virginia

**Current Member of the Committee:**

Sister May Ellen Coombe, NDS
The Archdiocese of Chicago

The Reverend Valentine N. Handwerker
The Diocese of Memphis

The Reverend Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis
The Diocese of San Diego

The Reverend Joseph Wallace
The Diocese of Camden

The Reverend Charles Parr, Chair
The Diocese of Paterson
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TOGETHER in the USA (continued from page 7)

Each Family also elected one of the five CCT Presidents, and Cardinal Keller Agreed to serve as the first Catholic President.

Christian Churches Together plans to operate with minimal National Staff. It will have general assembly, convened at least once a year, in which each member church or national organization has at least one representative, with additional representatives for each 5 million members. Business between general assemblies will be conducted by a steering committee of 18 to 24 members. The Rev. Wesly Granberg-Michaelson; general secretary of the Reformed Church in America, has served as interim moderator of the new organization. The next of its yearly gatherings is scheduled for February 2-9, 2007 at a location yet to be determined.

**Formalizing Denominations**

| American Baptist Churches, USA | Int’l Council of Community Churches |
| Armenian Orthodox Church in America | Int’l Pentecostal Holiness Church |
| Bread for the World | Korean Presbyterian Church in America |
| Call to Renewal/Sojourners | National Association of Congregational Christ Churches |
| Christian Reformed Church in NA | National Baptists Convention of America |
| Church of God (Anderson, IN) | National Baptist Convention of USA |
| Church of God of Prophecy | Open Bible Churches |
| Cooperative Baptist Fellowship | Orthodox Church in America |
| Coptic Orthodox Church | Polis Nat’l Catholic Church of America |
| Disciples of Christ | Reformed Church in America |
| Episcopal Church | Syrian Orthodox Church |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church of America | The Salvation Army |
| Evangelical for Social Action | United Church of Christ |
| Free Methodist Church | United Methodist Church |
| Friends United Meeting | US Conference of Catholic Bishops |

**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

The CADEIO Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecu- menical & Interreligious Officers. CADEIO is a professional society whose purpose is to stimu- late 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-councilor Magisterium. CADEIO 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 achieve- ment of its purposes. The association is based at the Office of the President, 303 S. Poplar St., Carbondale, IL 62901-2709. The CADEIO Newsletter is published at the Office of the CADEIO Editor, 1000 East Maple Avenue, Mundelein, IL 60060. It is also available on the web at [www.cadeio.org](http://www.cadeio.org).
CADEIO-EDEIO REPORT—2006-2007

Our relationship with EDEIO, the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical & Interreligious Officers network has had a long history. I am privileged to represent CADEIO in this relationship.

Along with EDEIO, we have partnered with LERN, Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network and ECCO, Ecumenical Companions Network in a Seminarian Essay Contest. The results of this contest are elsewhere in the reports.

Another ongoing project is an online Scripture Study for Episcopal, Lutheran, and Catholic parishes on the pericopes for the Easter season.

Also it has been the practice of ARCUSA, the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue in the USA to invite a representative of the respective networks to be observer-participants in their dialogue twice a year. I have been present at both meetings in 2006, the one I hosted in the spring in St. Louis (Belleville; IL) and in the fall in Louisville, KY. We have examined the document on Mary from ARCIC and continue to discuss the ongoing tensions within the Episcopal Church USA. Look for some changes in the manner of this dialogue due to budgets and scheduling. Also they hope to produce a study guide on the Eucharist for dialogue between parishes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Vincent A. Heier
Ecumenical Officer, Archdiocese of St. Louis

Resource on Nostra Aetate, Declaration of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions

Three lectures by Thomas F. Stranksy, C.S.P., craftsman of the conciliar act that launched the Catholic Church officially on the road to interreligious dialogue, are available in web cast format on the Georgetown University website:

(http://president.georgetown.edu/na/).

Retired rector of Tantur Ecumenical Institute for Theological Studies, Fr. Stransky was a member of the original staff of the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity. Beginning his service in August 1960, soon after the Secretariat was formed as one of the preparatory commissions for the Second Vatican Council, he served with Cardinal Augustin Bea and Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, the first two Presidents of the Secretariat. Together with bishop members and consultors of the Secretariat, they promoted the mandate of Pope John XXIII to fulfill the ecumenical mission of the general council of the western church that he had summoned.

Fr. Stransky worked on all three conciliar acts prepared by the Secretariat: the Decree on Ecumenism, the Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christians (Nostra Aetate), and the Declaration on Religious Liberty. He also assisted with the Decree on Divine Revelation, a task the Secretariat shared with the Theological Commission.

In October 1960, soon after he began his service, Fr. Stransky was given responsibility for the file, at first marked “secret,” on a proposal for the intended council to address the Church’s relationship with the Jewish people. He staffed that proposal as it developed through a series of drafts to become the Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, promulgated on October 28, 1965.

Concluding his service in Rome in 1970, he returned to the United States and was elected President of the Paulist Fathers. In 1986, he was invited to be Rector of Tantur Ecumenical Institute, a post he held until his retirement, while serving during those years as a consultor to the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity. He continues to write and lecture in the field of ecumenical and interreligious relations. Tantur Ecumenical Institute was established as a commemoration of the historic visit of Pope Paul VI to the Holy Land in January 1964.

On October 4, 12, 18, and November 4, 2006, Fr. Stransky inaugurated the Presidential Nostra Aetate Lecture Series at Georgetown University. The first three lectures are posted on the university website as web casts: 1) “The Genesis of Nostra Aetate: How the Changes of Vatican II Included Jewish Relations and Interreligious Dialogue,” 2) “Nostra Aetate and the Unfolding of Vatican II,” and 3) “Questions and Answers of Nostra Aetate: Questions Asked and Not Asked; Answers Given and Not Given.” While the final lecture, “On the Frontier between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, a Paulist Living Nostra Aetate,” will not be available in web cast format, it is intended to be a chapter in a volume based on these four lectures. The volume, which will include drafts leading to the promulgated text, bibliography, chronology, and chapters on the relationship between Nostra Aetate and other acts of Vatican II and on facts and fiction about Nostra Aetate, will be available through Georgetown University Press in 2008.
CADEIO NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT
SLATE OF CANDIDATES
FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITIONS

President: Very Rev. Robert B. Flannery, Diocese of Belleville for his second and final three-year term as president.

Vice President: Rev. Msgr. George Appleyard, Ukrainian Eparchy of Parma for his first three-year term as Vice-President. George has completed his second and final three-year term as secretary and is willing to serve as Vice-President continuing to do the duties as scribe.

Secretary: Rev. Don Rooney, Diocese of Arlington, for his first three-year term as secretary. Don is presently Region Four Representative, has been an active member of the NWCU 2007 local Planning Committee being in charge of all NWC/CADEIO designing and printing and serving as Catholic co-host for the CADEIO 2007 activities in Arlington and Washington. As Secretary, Don’s main responsibility will be to maintain and publish the CADEIO Roster each year.

Treasurer: Rev. Joseph D. Wallace, Diocese of Camden, who has served as treasurer for two years and is eligible for another three-year term.

Note: Monsignor Dennis Mikulams, who has given dedicated service to our Association as Vice-President the past three years, has asked that he not be a candidate for an executive office due to increased obligations in his parish and diocese. We thank Dennis for his faithful committee as an officer and to CADEIO throughout the years.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee Members:

Rev. Msgr. Charles King, Diocese of Fort Worth, Chair
Sister Joyce Cox, BVM, Archdiocese of Seattle
Very Rev. Leo Walsh, STL, Archdiocese of Anchorage
Rev. Michael Kavanaugh, Diocese of Savannah
Abbot Gregory Polan, OSB, Diocese of Kansas City-Saint Joseph

LIAISON TO NCCC ECUMENICAL NETWORKS COMMISSION REPORT

The Ecumenical Networks Commission of the NCCC met at the same time as the General Assembly this year. The commission seeks to reach out to all the state councils and their constituents providing a clearinghouse for information and support. The connection of the Roman Catholic community through presence and voice on the Ecumenical Networks Commission through the office of the liaison must continue especially at this important chapter of closer ties with the NCCC on a national level.

The NCCC General Assembly “For the Healing of the Nations” – November 7 to 9, 2006, highlights:

* “Pandemic Flue Essential for Church Leadership”
* “Armageddon Theology and its impact on the Middle East”
* Fight Global Hunger and Poverty: Tools for Congregations
* Let Justice Roll – Living Wage Campaign
* Local Church Resources Toolkit
* Recovering from Trauma, Breaking the Cycle of Violence
* Unity: Still the Ecumenical Goal
* Using Media in Advocacy
* When Disaster Strikes in the United States
* “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: A Policy on Human Biotechnologies”
* Special Commission on the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast Report

The Assembly was composed of some 248 delegates from 35 member Christian denominations. The major accomplishments of this year’s Assembly was passage of a pastoral message on the war, a new policy on human biotechnology and resolutions banning human reproductive cloning, bio-warfare oversight and combating global warming. Continued representation from CADEIO to Ecumenical Networks is an important presence and cross-pollination that is mutually beneficial.

Faithfully Submitted by Rev. Joseph D. Wallace
1. President called the meeting to order at 3 o’clock sharp.

2. With an opening prayer by Sam Najar from the Maronite Eqarchy of Brooklyn.

3. The agenda was accepted by the members. These minutes follow the numbering of the agenda document.

4. The minutes were accepted as printed and presented.

5. Joe Wallace then gave the treasurer’s report:

   Credentials: 92 paid dioceses, 32 present; 41 associates

   The printed report with its adjustments was reported and accepted

   The 2007 Budget was approved.

   On an objection from the floor, a motion was made by Steve Porter to have a full audit (as opposed to a financial report); second by Alexis Smith. The motion failed to pass on a voice vote.

6. Bishop Shlba then spoke. He began by saying his new involvements with this work has given him a profound appreciation for those who pursue it. With regard to the Puerto Alegro meeting, he said “The ecumenical situation in the whole world has changed dramatically ... of which we must be aware.” There are so many more Evangelicals in the world, for example. At the meeting of the WCC the new emphasis is on consensus rather than voting. The voice of the Orthodox was stronger. “One issue I saw missing, though, was that of ecclesiology,” he said, “where the Church is an instrument for the transformation of the world.”

   “I want to highlight Orthodox relations,” he said. The North American Orthodox continent finished their work on the *filioque*, and now will address primacy and conciliarity, and hope to publish a new and deeper statement. There is a fresh impetus here.

   Lutheran relations are in their eleventh round, the hope of eternal life, including purgatory, indulgences and prayers for the dead. “I think we can resolve some very difficult problems by reviewing history,” he said. The Missouri Synod is now involved in the dialogue.

   A document for Catholic-Muslim relations was published, in which Francis Tiso had a prominent part. It begins with a discussion of marriage.

   "We asked Charles Parr to (inquire as to) what kind of celebrations of Nostrae Aetate have occurred across the country." position that Christianity is a Jewish heresy since it has lasted this long.

   At the November meeting of the National Council of National Council of Synagogues a rabbi asked his colleagues to revisit their position that Christianity is a Jewish heresy since it has lasted this long.

   Christian Churches Together steering committee includes Kehler, Blaire, and Roberson, and something will be coming from that group soon.

   With regard to the Hispanic community, a pamphlet perhaps framed around John Paul II—will explain where we were are in all this.

   Pastoral formation remains a major issue, "how do we form our successors." Too many of the new heads of jurisdictions and adjudicatoryes have no idea of ecumenism and it is not a high priority for them.

   Continued on Page 14
"Reception" is a constant issue. I use "Handing on the Faith in an Ecumenical World," and--an invaluable re-
source--"The Ecumenical Christian Dialogues and the Catechism of the Catholic Church."

Considering how many groups have arisen from a particular interpretation of Scripture, it seems nec-
essary to promote Scripture study. In the early Church the texts spoke to each other. This (a close study) may
help solve some of the terrible difficulties we now face, he said.

The bishop introduced James Massa, the new SEIA director. The bishop left the podium saying
"thanks to all of you; it's grass roots work."

7. Francis Tisco reported on the Institute for Ecumenical Leadership. What are the issues in the world relig-
ions today? Not only did we present the church documents, we also brought us issues such as immigration.
We tried to make it come to life by visiting places of worship, including a Bahai temple, a Hindu temple, a
synagogue, a mosque, etc. “I want to share a great concern; if we do not want to "require" these institutes,
they remain "essential" in some sense ... we encourage you to be involved... to encourage the new officers to
participate."

8. Jeff Gros said we will offer the Initial Institute this summer. He commented that while we have occasion-
ally had a non-Catholic participant, this is aimed at Catholics. We review the Vatican documents, etc. Deacon
Charles Clark spoke about his experiences making an Institute. Even those who have made it before would
benefit from making it again.

   Jeff- continued with remarks about efforts to help with the development of ecumenism among the
Hispanics. "We need to help people with resources for the Hispanic Community, we need stories,
   etc.” We have fifteen Protestant Churches as well as the Catholic churches. Mail or e-mail them to
me for inclusion in such a volume.

9. Dennis said Orientale Lumen will be held on both coasts again this year. Ron Roberson said he was
skeptical about them in the beginning, but the turnout has been gratifying, about a third each RC, Orthodox
and Eastern Catholic.

10. Don Rooney & Paul Lee spoke briefly about the next NWCU in Washington DCat the end of January.
    NWCU.us, link “Washington 2007,” for more details and a request for volunteers.

    [A suggestion was made to hold the meeting in Washington regularly in winter: but, for many
    reasons it had no support.].

11. The president had George Appleyard take the chair to conduct the vote on the revisions to the Constitu-
tion and By-Laws. The secretary provided a capsule outline of the various amendments proposed to guide the
assembly. A draft of all the proposed changes, with the exception of one or two points which were referred
from the Board of Directors, had already been provided to the members in their packets.

12. The first motion, duly seconded, was enabling legislation which waived proof of signatures, time con-
straints, the requirement of a previous mailing, and other technicalities to enable the assembly to dispatch
the work in an expeditious manner. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

    Only highlights of the changes are provided here. The newly amended Constitution and By-Laws will
be made available on line very quickly.

    The first change was that of the name. After taking a preliminary vote to discern a consensus, a motion was
made, duly seconded, to change the name to The Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers
(CADEIO). The change was effected by a vote of 23 to 17.
Article V, 1 was amended to change the name of the Executive Board to *The Board of Directors* to avoid confusion with the Executive Committee.

Article V, 3 was added to provide a job description for regional representatives, which includes attending the Annual Meeting, arranging for the election of their successor, disseminating the dates for meetings and Institutes and scouting for new members and holding a regional meeting once a year.

Article VII was expanded to provide for term limits, the replacement of an officer by death or resignation, and a provision to permit an officer who has ceased to be an ecumenical officer in his/her jurisdiction to serve out the current term. The only provision to die, for lack or a motion, was a provision to remove an officer. This section (which will be moved in the document to a more appropriate place) also profided for a run-off ballot in case of a tie, and for proxy votes.

Article VIII authorizes the president to erect *ad hoc* committees, which may become standing committees upon confirmation by the membership at the Annual Meeting. The president appoints and removes the chair of these committees, but the committee itself can only be dissolved with the consent of the Assembly.

Within the By-Laws, it was decided that all four officers shall be elected by the Assembly. The president and vice-president are elected in the same fashion (from among the Board of Directors), but the Secretary and Treasurer may be elected from the full or associate members and need not have served on the Board of Directors.

Provision was made for a nominating committee, and the slate must be finalized three (3) months before the published date of the election.

13. Garland Pohl reported on the baptism study. The printed report was available at the CADEIO desk. She said 200 questionnaires went out and 60 were returned, about 30% return—quite good for a survey. She singled out Chicago & Fall River as returning stellar reports. She said this information needs to be engaged by the leaders.

14. Seminarian essay contest: Don Beckmann said we need to engage the next generation in ecumenism, and this is one tool. A point raised: why not include all those preparing for ministry and change the name of the contest accordingly. Don said we deliberately limited it to those in what we commonly consider a seminary, but this is open to review.

15. Nomination forms for the Fitzgerald Award will be out in October.

16. In 2007, Advanced Institute will be held if enough sign up.

    There has been gossip that Church Women United is not pro-life. This does not seem to be true of the organization as a whole, but there might be local chapters who apparently are on record as pro-choice. This will be explored further.

17. Bob mentioned the names of some of our number who have passed on.

18. Adjournment came at 4:45pm. Motion, second and moved. The members then went over to the St. Joselph Cathedral for a Mass with Bishop McGrath in which Bishop Sklba gave the homily.

Ita est: [Signature]

George [Signature]
2007 ADVANCED INSTITUTE FOR ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP

Aug. 5 – 11
2007
Beginning with dinner at 5 PM on Aug. 5 and ending After breakfast on August 11th.
$750 per person

For close to twenty years, the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (formerly NADEO) and the Bishop’s Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs have co-sponsored an Advanced Institute for Ecumenical Leadership. This six-day institute has been a very worthwhile experience for ecumenical officers, commission members, clergy, religious and Laity in provided an in-depth understanding of Ecumenism.

Because so many have asked for more, CADEIO and the BCEIA are now offering an Advanced Institute of Ecumenical Leadership to be held August 5—11, 2007 at the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute in Garrison, New York, just outside of New York City. The Advanced Institute is open to all who have participated in the original Institute, or its equivalent. This shorter but comprehensive program will among other issues, offer deeper study of the dialogues, a closer look at the Eastern churches; and sharing concerns regarding groups not active in the ecumenical movement.

Institute Staff

Brother Jeffrey Gross, F.S.C.
Professor of Church History at Memphis Theological Seminary and former Associate Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Father Ron Roberson, C.S.P.
Associate Directory of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in Washington, D.C. and former Staff Member of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity in Rome.

Dr. Michael Root
Professor of Systemic Theology and Dean of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina and a member of the Lutheran Catholic Dialogue, ARCIC and a World Council of Churches Observer.

Rev. Dr. Cecil M. Robaek, Jr.
Professor of Church History and Ecumenics at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California since 1974 as well as Director of the David J. Duplessis Center for Christian Spirituality.

Advanced Institute of Ecumenical Leadership
August 5—11, 2007
Institute in Garrison, New York, just outside of New York City
2008 Projected Revenue

Diocese – Full Membership Dues
130 @ $200 per Diocese $26,000

Associate Membership Dues
75 @ $10 per Associate 750

Publications
100

CD Interest
700

Total Projected Revenue $27,500

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TOTALS $29,650 $17,639 $29,650 $30,150

LARC* Figure includes 2005 & 2006

Workshop Reconciliation
Revenue $ 9,225
Expenses 14,807
Net surplus (Deficit) $ (5,582)
# TREASURER’S REPORT

January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

## REVENUE

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## Total Funds Available for 2006

$124,242.54

## EXPENSES

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## Net Income (Loss) 12/31/06

$(5,974.11)

## YEAR END CLOSING

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Interfaith Academies
For Religious Leaders

Want to know about our faith?
Want to meet people from other religious traditions?
Interested in interreligious dialogue?

The United States today is an increasingly multi-religious society, and many who are engaged in religious formation, training, and ministry are seeking opportunities to dialogue with people outside their religious tradition. The Interfaith Academies for Religious Leaders are intensive study programs for people engaged in or training for leadership in various religious traditions.

The Interfaith Academy for Emerging Religious Leaders and the Interfaith Academy for Religious Professionals provide a forum where people from diverse religious traditions can learn about each other’s faiths with and from each other.

The Academies will involve lectures, seminars, and readings on a variety of religious traditions, as well as group visits to various places of religious observance. Most importantly, participants will have the opportunity to build relationships and learn from one another through conversation in the classroom, in dormitories, and at meals.

Two versions are available:

June 13-27 - The Interfaith Academy for Emerging Religious Leaders is a two-week course for people in training for leadership in their respective traditions. Participants will have all accommodation, meals, and local transportation covered by the Academy. Students need only pay for travel to Kansas City.

June 13-20 - The Interfaith Academy for Religious Professionals is a week-long course for people already active in religious leadership as clergy, professors, teachers, or in other vocations. Participants will pay a tuition cost of approximately $1500, plus travel to Kansas City.

The Interfaith Academies for Religious Leaders will be held at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO. The Academy is made possible by a partnership between Saint Paul School of Theology, Religions for Peace-USA, The Pluralism Project at Harvard University, and the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council, with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation.

For more information, please visit www.rfpusa.org/interfaithacademy
or e-mail: interfaithacademy@rfpusa.org.

More details will be available in early 2007.
Pasadena, Calif., February 9, 2007 – A consensus on the importance of evangelism and the need to eliminate domestic poverty marked the official formation of Christian Churches Together (CCT) meeting here February 6-9.

The CCT is composed of 36 churches and national organizations from virtually all U.S. Christian groups who have been seeking to come together for fellowship, worship and opportunities to share in important ministries.

“Remember that you belong to God and God does not belong to you,” said the Rev. Dr. Larry Pickens, quoting his mother’s early admonition. That, said Pickens, is the wisdom that will hold CCT groups together.

“CCT is good news for American Christians,” said the very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky of the Orthodox Church in America. “Our gathering of the wider spectrum of U.S. Christian churches is succeeding in building mutual trust and overcoming stereotypes. Our common hope and expectation is that CCT will enable our churches to offer a strong and united Christian moral voice and vision in the public square.”

Christian Churches Together (CCT) began in 2001 out of a deeply felt need to broaden and expand fellowship, unity, and witness among the diverse expressions of Christian faith today. Over the past five years, with a focus on praying together and building relationships, CCT has become the broadest most inclusive fellowship of Christian churches and traditions in the USA, including Evangelical/Pentecostal, Orthodox, Catholic, historic Protestant and Racial/Ethnic churches among its participants.

A Celebration and Commitment Service Wednesday highlighted the gathering that included over 150 participants and observers and a group of seminary students and young leaders. The 36 founding members includes the most recent groups to become official participants in CCT: the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America were warmly welcomed. Other groups are currently investigating membership, said the Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson of the Reformed Church in America, chair of the CCT steering committee.

“Seeing the leaders of all the participating churches and organizations standing and praying together in their commitment to this vision was a powerful, visible sign of hope,” Granberg-Michaelson said. “We have said from the beginning that our purpose is to grow closer together in Christ in order to strengthen our Christian witness in the world. In Pasadena we all experienced how this is truly happening and this fills us with joy for the future.”

Evangelism and the need to eliminate poverty in the U.S. were major topics at the meeting.

Dr. William Shaw of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., declared that poverty in the United States to be a "scandal." Poverty "will not be redressed without intentional and painful effort by the total U.S. community," Shaw said. "CCT calls the country's conscience to that effort and commits itself to being a part of that redressing."

CCT participants continued discussions from the 2006 annual gathering in Atlanta on the topic of domestic poverty. A committee was appointed in Atlanta to find common ground and propose ways for CCT to challenge U.S. Christians and the whole country to address the tragedy of poverty in our own neighborhoods. CCT considered the committee’s proposals and approved a statement on poverty while agreeing to continue addressing domestic poverty in the future, including a strong focus at the 2008 annual gathering in Washington, D.C.

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The text of the statement on poverty is below.

The discussion on evangelism Wednesday was made open to a group of seminary students and young leaders “so that they might learn about the exciting movement for unity in the CCT as well as adding their challenges and perspectives,” Granberg-Michaelson said. The group of students represented the diversity of the five faith families of the CCT. “Their excitement and contributions were welcomed and CCT leadership expects to look for ways to include these perspectives in the future,” Granberg-Michaelson said.

Further enhancing the learning and fellowship of the gathering, worship services included liturgies from all of the five faith families and musical contributions from a Korean choir of pastor’s wives. At the invitation of His Eminence, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, CCT participated in Evening Prayer and dinner at the Armenian Orthodox Center of Los Angeles on Thursday. Prayer and meal fellowship adds to the formal discussions in creating the CCT movement and building relationships.

For the first entire day of the gathering, participants addressed the theme, “Is Jesus’ Proclamation Our Proclamation?”, responding to Luke 4:18. Participants in CCT discussed evangelism in their church and faith family contexts and how evangelism shapes or includes actions towards social justice and the healing of the deep hurts in our world.

Bishop Stephen Blaire, Catholic Diocese of Stockton, noted that one of the common threads discovered in this day-long discussion was an understanding that evangelism is rooted in personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Shared learning is a crucial part of the fellowship of the CCT. As each family shared some history, perspectives and practices related to evangelism with vulnerability and humility, the other churches listened intently. Participants wrestled with the challenge to consider future cooperative possibilities while recognizing and affirming the common efforts and cooperation that already exists on many levels.

The service of celebration and commitment included words of welcome from Cardinal Roger Mahoney of the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Rev. Dr. Barbara Anderson, co-pastor of Pasadena Presbyterian Church, host of the service. The Coptic Orthodox Choir of the Diocese of Los Angeles and other musical contributions complemented scriptural readings and words from the five presidents on the importance of joining this movement for Christian unity.

Bishop Richard Sklba of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (representing Cardinal William Keeler of the Archdiocese of Baltimore) joined together as the presidents of the five faith families of CCT and, in a symbolic action of lighting candles, committed “to grow closer together in Christ in order to strengthen our Christian witness in the world.”

Widespread and persistent poverty challenges us to action. The painful truth is that about thirty-seven million people in our country live below the poverty line. Tragically, 18 percent of all our children struggle in poverty. The sad reality is that millions in our nation work hard and still cannot escape poverty. We lament this ongoing poverty.

Our faith in Christ who is the truth compels us to confront the ignorance of and indifference to the scandal of widespread, persistent poverty in this rich nation. We must call this situation by its real names: moral failure, unacceptable injustice. Our faith in Christ drives us to call our churches and our society to a more urgent, united response.

We are grateful for the vast array of ways our churches are already helping millions of struggling people. We want to build on these efforts, learn from each other, and collaborate more closely. But we can, we must, do more.
We also recognize and encourage leaders in community, economic and public life who seek justice for poor people in our land. But we can, we must, do more. Our goal must be the elimination of poverty in this land.

As we as Christians renew and strengthen our efforts to overcome domestic poverty, we will seek to work with people of other faiths and all persons of good will in this urgent task.

Unfortunately, partisan and ideological divisions too often promote one-sided solutions and prevent genuine progress. We believe substantial success in reducing domestic poverty requires an overall framework that insists that overcoming poverty requires both more personal responsibility and broader societal responsibility, both better choices by individuals and better policies and investments by government, both renewing wholesome families and strengthening economic incentives. We believe that genuine success in reducing American poverty will require greater commitment and concrete action by all four of the following: churches, neighborhoods, communities, and faith-based and other organizations; government that implements better public policy at local, state, and federal levels; individuals and families; the market and private sector (employers, unions and other economic actors).

We are leaders of the Christian community, not an interest group. We have no partisan political agenda. We are conservatives and liberals, Independents, Republicans and Democrats. Together we believe that our faith demands and the people of this land yearn for concrete proposals that transcend divisive political divisions.

We give thanks to God for bringing together at one Christian table in Christian Churches Together for the first time in our history representatives of almost all the families in Christianity in the United States: Evangelicals/Pentecostals, Catholics, Racial/Ethnic, Orthodox and Historic Protestants. As a united voice of Christianity in this country, we pledge to strengthen our efforts to end the scandal of widespread poverty in the richest nation in history.

Four Objectives.
CCT will promote its commitment to overcoming domestic poverty by inviting all Christians and all people, especially our leaders in public life, to embrace and implement the following objectives:

a. to strengthen families and communities; because they are essential bulwarks against poverty;

b. to reduce child poverty; we seek to cut child poverty by 50 percent in the next ten years;

c. to make work work; by combating racism and guaranteeing that full time work offers a realistic escape from poverty and access to good health care;

d. to strengthen the educational system in our country with particular attention to the public schools; because access to quality education offers perhaps the best way out of poverty.

For up-to-date information, see: www.christianchurchestogther.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 on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and other ecumenical and interreligious conferences.

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August 5–11, 2007
Garrison, NY

NWCU
2008 National Workshop on Christian Unity
April 14, 2008 to April 17, 2008
Chicago, IL

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