

# NADEO NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Issue 1

March 28, 2005



## *The Purposes of NADEO*

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

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## West Coast Regional Dialogue of Catholics and Muslims

The West Coast Regional Dialogue of Catholics and Muslims resumed its activities at a transitional planning session at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, on January 31 to February 2, 2005. The Session was co-convened by Bishop Carlos Sevilla, S.J. of Yakima, Washington, and Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi of the Islamic Society of Orange County. The Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs staff was represented by Canon Francis V. Tiso.

The co-conveners gave an orientation to the work with scriptural interpretation. Dr. Siddiqi examined the Quran and the specific methods of hermeneutics that Islamic tradition employs. He then pre-

sented a number of verses that have been frequently misunderstood. Any single verse must be interpreted in the light of all that the Quran says about the covenants with God, was examined in the light of authentic Muslim scholarship. Bishop Sevilla's keynote concerned the question of divine inspiration of the Bible and the way the text may be internalized by the believer through faith. The believer, transformed by the encounter with the word in liturgy and prayer, more and more embodies God's self-disclosure to the world.

Dr. Iftekhar Hai explored problematic consequences of mistaken translations of Quranic verses, particularly those that make reference to the followers of other religions. The

questions of abrogation and of a certain hardening in Quranic interpretation over recent centuries have given rise to violence and misunderstanding. The present situation of the world requires better translations and more nuanced interpretation of the sacred text so that its universal truth will be clearly seen.

Respondents noted that in the early centuries of Islam, dialogue with Christians and Jews contributed much to the subtlety of Quranic interpretation, something that can be recovered in the present time. Each human being has the obligation to seek out the truth and pursue it to the end; ultimate salvation is bestowed by God alone, so no human being can be condemned by those of us

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## President's Letter *by Robert Flannery*

Dear NADEO members and friends,

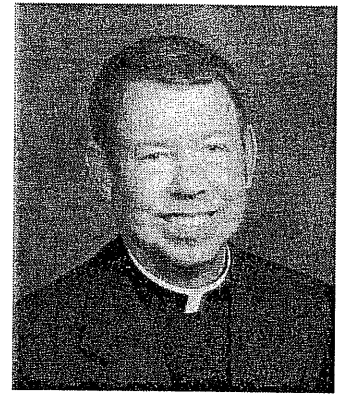
You are receiving this newsletter during our annual Lenten pilgrimage focusing on the conversion of our hearts. May our personal journeys continue to be broadened, as we seek further reconciliation among our divided churches and religions, an outgrowth of our own stories of faith.

I trust that this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was a moment of grace and inspiration for you and the people of your diocese. Please remember that although the most common time to celebrate this event is the traditional week of January 18-25, a number of places use Pentecost or other times of the year which are more advantageous. Hopefully your parishes are using the prayer, or parts thereof, at parish meetings and other occasions. We thank the Graymoor Community for their faithful ministry in providing this yearly vehicle for ecumenical awareness and advancement.

By now you should have received your registration information for the upcoming National Workshop on Christian Unity in New Orleans, April 4-7. Besides an excellent variety of timely seminars offered in the general program, the NADEO Catholic Program will have a unique format and theme this year: The Decrees and Declarations on Ecumenism, *Nostra Aestates*, and Reli-

gious Liberty—40 Years Later: Then and Now. All of the speakers on the panel (Rev. Drs. George Lindbeck, John Long, and George Tavard) were at the Second Vatican Council and have been involved with ecumenical and interreligious matters ever since. It promises to be an extremely beneficial presentation full of far-reaching insights for us all. The speaker at the NADEO luncheon this year will be Msgr. Robert L. Stern, General Secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, who will speak on the present volatile situation in the Middle East and its effect on relations among the Christians, Jews, and Muslims there. Do plan to attend our national gathering this year if at all possible. Our Catholic Program will certainly benefit us all with its content and dialogue.

In late October, I attended my first meeting of the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs (BCEIA). The meetings are held twice a year in Chicago. We were hosted at the National Headquarters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. This significant ecumenical gesture of hospitality is but one of many that I'm sure we all experience as concrete signs of outreach and *koinonia* as we travel the road to unity together. Bishop Stephen Blaize of Stockton and Chair of the Bishops' Committee led a pro-



ductive meeting highlighted by an interesting discussion about the United States Catholic Church joining the new ecumenical body, Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT). At the meeting, committee member Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore was honored by the ELCA leadership for his special anniversaries this year as priest, archbishop, and cardinal as well as for his numerous endeavors to promote ecumenical and interreligious life in the Church and beyond. Our Association takes this opportunity to congratulate Bishop Richard Silkba of Milwaukee who was elected Co-Chair of the BCEIA at the annual USCCB Washington meeting this past November. He begins his full-time term as chair this coming fall.

My travels as your president have also taken me to Chicago several other times during the past six months to be present at Cardinal Walter Kasper's lecture on the Fortieth Anniversary of the Declaration on Ecumenism, as well as the Fifth Anniversary Celebration of the Joint Declaration Document on Justification.

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# Christmas, New Year, Epiphany 2004-2005

*by Fr. Francis Tiso*

Dear Friends,

I have just come back from travels in Italy, Egypt and Turkey. I felt that it would be important to visit the Middle East at the start of my work at the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. Sometimes seeing even a partial view of a situation is worth more than reading many books and news reports. I also hoped to make some person-to-person contacts that would make it possible to get responses to the kinds of questions that come up at the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In northern Italy, I met with a group of Catholics who have been exploring eastern spiritualities for a number of years. Our retreat was an opportunity to deepen our awareness of the graces we are always receiving, and to celebrate those graces with prayer, music, and movement. Our conversations touched upon the future of Christianity in Europe, and on the ways open to us to build a peace with Islam and with the current wave of rampant secularism. In southern Italy, a local group organized a very effective panel on interreligious routes to peace making that included a young Muslim student leader, a Waldensian pastor, an educator, and a member of the Naples branch of the Community of Sant' Egidio. The auditorium was full to overflowing for this presentation, which I was asked to sum up at the end. Quite a number of those present expressed very serious concerns about the intentions of Islamic states with regard to Europe, but there was also a very strong conviction that interreligious dialogue is an indispensable part of the way to build a peaceful future.

In Egypt, I gave a presentation on the history of interreligious dialogue at the American University in Cairo. The audience kept me 45 minutes beyond the allotted time for intense questions about the ways and means to promote dialogue under the present circumstances of war and terrorism. I also had an opportunity to wander about the city on foot, which is often the best way to pick up on the "zeitgeist". I found the people (that is, ordinary folk, not just the bazaar sharpies) to be very friendly, even to an American, and that it is possible to share a joke even with spotty Arabic and a potpourri of languages and gestures.

In Turkey, I joined in with some American educators and clergy that were being accompanied by members of the movement inspired by the spiritual teacher Fethullah Gulen. The movement is trying to bring modernity and professionalism to Turkey by building schools, universities, and hospitals and by reaching the people through a variety of news services. We were able to meet with some leading members of the movement for conversations that reached considerable spiritual depth. One might hope that, in the future, relations between Muslims and Christians might be more along these lines, and the violent conflicts of the past will be healed. A great deal needs to be done to inform the people of Turkey of the real history and doctrines of Christianity. In fact, a lack of knowledge of Christianity is one of the principle obstacles to effective dialogue and peace-making in the Middle East. Of course, a lack of knowledge of Islam in the US continues to create political problems.

A high point of the journey was the December 17 celebration of the "Nuptial Night" of the Sufi Saint Rumi Mevlana, whose tomb is in Konya (ancient Iconium of Acts 14). There was great spiritual intensity around the tomb, with hundreds of devotees pressing one another to be near the place of repose of the saint. That evening, a company of nearly 200 dervishes of the Mevlano Order performed their famous dances accompanied by traditional instruments in a new Cultural Center. Members of the Turkish government and religious leaders were present, in what seemed to be a gesture of reserved mutual recognition, keeping in mind that Sufi Orders were banned by the secularist reforms that gave birth to modern Turkey after World War I.

Now that I am back in Washington, I am looking forward to a year in which interreligious dialogue may contribute something to the world-wide longing for peace. Certainly we cannot go on misunderstanding one another: the barriers to knowledge must come down. I am reminded, though, of the advice of the French Dominicans who have an excellent center for Arabic studies in Cairo: One needs a geological patience...(*on ha besoin d' une patience g'eologique!*)

May your 2005 be a year of grace and renewal. I am very grateful to you for your many prayers and kindnesses; my friends also have a "geological patience" with me, thanks be to God!

In friendship

## President's Letter *continued from page 2*

Cardinal Kasper (head of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity) and Bishop Mark Hanson (President of the World Federation of Lutheran Churches) copresided at the later event.

The ceremony was held in conjunction with the Board of ELCA Annual Bishops' Meeting. I also attended part of the NADEO Faiths in the World Committee meeting held in Chicago in October; the National Council of Churches annual convention held this year in nearby St. Louis in November; the Fortieth Anniversary observance of the Decree on Ecumenism held by Eden Seminary and the Archdiocese of St. Louis in January; and a pres-

entation by Br. Jeff Gros and Rev. Paul Shreck entitled "Luther/Catholic Workshop: Can you be a Christian All by Yourself?" sponsored by the Lutherans and Catholics in St. Louis; and lastly, at the end of February, I attended the annual EDEO (Episcopal) and LERN (Lutheran) combined Boards Meeting in Delray Beach, FL to which they invite each year the president of NADEO as well as our two liaisons to their groups, demonstrating our ever increasing LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic) relationship.

As I travel to these various gatherings and meetings, from my home in Southern IL, I am very conscious of the numerous ways our own ecumenical

and interreligious officers and other personnel are promoting our common goal of building and understanding and closer relationships between people of various religious backgrounds. In the name of our NADEO officers—Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis, Msgr. George Appleyard, and our new treasurer, Fr. Joe Wallace, we thank you for your dedicated efforts which are interreligious mission we together serve.

Have a joyous Holy Week and Easter and I hope to see you in New Orleans.

God's peace,

Fr. Bob Flannery

NADEO President

## 2005 Midwest Academy for Ecumenical Leadership *By Rev David A. Anderson*



The Illinois Conference of Churches will inaugurate the *Midwest Academy for Ecumenical Leadership* in 2005 in Chicago on the occasion of its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The purpose of the Academy is to cultivate and educate a new generation of clergy and laity for ecumenical ministry leadership.

"**Panorama of Ecumenical Witness: Called to Christ's Ministry of Reconciliation**" is the theme of the *Midwest Academy for Ecumenical Leadership* seminar to be held from July 18-22, 2005 at The Conference Center at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, a northwest suburb of Chicago. The Academy seminar will provide a snapshot overview of the ecumenical movement from Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant perspectives including its significance for the churches mission today. The Academy offers a residential learning experience on a beautiful campus that seeks to nurture ecumenical community by weaving together the threads of prayer, presentation, dialogue, and fellowship.

The 2005 Academy faculty includes: Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Baima, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary; Rev. Dr. Gospert Byamungu, *Professor of Biblical Studies, World Council of Churches' Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Switzerland*; Rev. Dr. Gary E. Peluso-Verdend, *Associate Professor of Practical Theology, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary*; Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Ferguson, Ph.D, *Associate Deputy for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations, Episcopal Church*; Rev. Dr. Thomas FitzGerald, *Professor of Church History and Historical Theology, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology*; and Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens, *General Secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns, United Methodist Church*.

The 2005 Academy co-sponsors include: Illinois Conference of Churches, University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, and the ecumenical offices of the American Baptist Churches in the USA, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church.

The *Midwest Academy for Ecumenical Leadership* is open to interested clergy, laity, and seminarians. Registrations will be received on a first-come, first-served basis up to a maximum of 44 participants. Registration is \$500 per person (program, room and board). Continuing Education credit (2.2 CEU) is granted by the University of St. Mary of the Lake upon submission of an application and \$10 fee. **Registrations with payment need to be received by the Illinois Conference of Churches no later than June 24, 2005.**

A 2005 *Midwest Academy for Ecumenical Leadership* brochure and registration form is available from the Illinois Conference of Churches. Call (217) 522-7099, or E-mail: [adminstaff@ilconfchurches.org](mailto:adminstaff@ilconfchurches.org), or Log onto: [www.ilconfchurches.org](http://www.ilconfchurches.org)

# Canadian Centre for Ecumenism Press Release

*By Fr. Canon David Oliver*

The Board of Directors of the **Canadian Centre for Ecumenism** is pleased to announce that Dr. Stuart E. Brown has taken up the duties of Director of the Centre as of 1<sup>st</sup> October. From British Columbia, Dr. Brown holds an M.A. and a Ph. D. in Islamic Studies from McGill University. In Canada, the United States, England, Switzerland, India, Australia and numerous African countries, he has taught and written on various aspects of Islam and interfaith dialogue as well as on the history and future of ecumenism.

Dr. Brown was Program Secretary for Christian-Muslim Relations in the Department of Dialogue with People of Living Faiths at the World Council of Churches in Geneva from 1983-1988 and General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches from 1988-1993. He is fluent in English, French and Arabic and reads German, Italian, Spanish, Swahili and Turkish. Dr. Brown and his wife, Margaret, have four adult children and five grandchildren. His appointment as Director of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism marks the first time an Anglican and layperson has held this post.

Founded in 1963 by Rev. Irénée Beaubien, Jesuit, Officer of the Order of Canada, the Centre was instrumental in encouraging all the major Churches to cooperate in a common Christian Pavilion at Expo 67 held in Montreal. The Canadian Centre for Ecumenism continues its involvement in dialogues between members of various Churches and world religions, in education for better understanding and cooperation among believers and in spiritual initiatives such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It has developed a Guide for Muslim-Christian Marriages, it publishes the quarterly *Ecumenism* which is received in forty countries around the world, and it maintains a specialized library accessible to the public. Previous directors of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism were Fr Irénée Beaubien, s.j., Fr Thomas Ryan, c.s.p., Fr Philippe Thibodeau and Bro. Gilles Bourdeau, o.f.m.

## Publication Notice

The NADEO Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers. NADEO is a professional society whose purpose is to stimulate the exchange of ideas and experiences among the ecumenical officers serving the Catholic Church in the dioceses of the United States of America. It promotes programs that further Christian Unity and interreligious dialogue according to the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and the post-conciliar Magisterium. NADEO also cooperates in a special way with the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. Additionally, the association collaborates with other professional societies, councils of churches and interfaith organizations in the achievement of its purposes. The association is based at the Office of the President, 303 S. Poplar St., Carbondale, IL 62901-2909. The NADEO Newsletter is published at the Office of the NADEO Editor, 1000 East Maple Avenue, Mundelein, IL 60060. It is also available on the web as [www.nadeo.org](http://www.nadeo.org)

# An Ecumenical Calendar of Saints in the Making

Different churches have different ways of commemorating saints and martyrs—people who lived a Christ-like life or can serve as an example of faith. But one thing has become evident in recent times: the divide between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches on the one hand, and the Protestant churches on the other regarding the martyrs' impact on spirituality is no longer as deep as it was.

The reformers turned against the adoration of saints and their use as intercessors and intermediaries between God and mankind, but saints are important as examples in faith and witnessing. Protes-

tant churches increasingly recognize that the legitimate condemnation of abuses has undermined consciousness of communion with the witnesses of the past. During the recent plenary meeting of the WCC Faith and Order Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, (August, 2004), the members of the Commission asked the churches to compile a lists of saints known and remembered in each church. The churches are also being asked to look beyond their confessional borders to identify those Christian witnesses from outside their tradition whom they would like to see included in this calendar.

Once completed, the calendar is to be published by the WCC, and is expected to be an inspiring source for and a contribution to ecumenical spirituality. Until the first edition of the ecumenical calendar of saints and martyrs becomes available—and of course afterwards, churches and parishes are being invited to walk towards each other and to discover the common memory and roots within their various worship and spirituality traditions. The feast of *All Saints* could literally be one!

*Koinonia*, Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

## *Regional News Philadelphia*

### **An ANCHOR Program**

**April 29** 9:30 AM—12:00 Noon

The Church as Koinonia of Salvation: Its Structures and Ministry

Presented by Dr. John Reumann, Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Greek at the Lutheran Theology Seminary of Philadelphia, an active participant and expert scholar involved in Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue.

**Location:** Medical Mission Sisters Administrative Building

8400 Pine Road  
Fox Chase  
Philadelphia, PA 19111  
215-742-6100

## **Centro Pro Unione**

Intro to the Ecumenical & Interreligious Movements

**June 27, 2005—July 15, 2005**

This course is designed to introduce participants to the ecumenical and interreligious movements from a Roman Catholic perspective. It will offer a historical and theological overview of the issues that divide Christians as well as the bonds that unite them. The program will explore relations with other religious traditions. The course, which is in English, is for men and women who are in preparation for ministry or religious life, who are mission field, who are ecumenical officers or members of ecumenical commissions, or who are looking for a sabbatical experience led by qualified professors and ecumenists.

For more information visit:  
[www.prounione.urbe.it](http://www.prounione.urbe.it)

## West Coast Regional Dialogue of Catholics and Muslims

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who are still on the spiritual path.

Imam Mostafa al-Qazwini further clarified the notion of abrogation and demonstrated the correct interpretation of Quranic passages criticizing Jews and Christians. A consistent application of interpretative methods as presented by Dr. Siddiqui should lead to deeper understanding and avoidance of those interpretations that have given rise to violence. A greater attention to the ethical guidance in our revealed scriptures was proposed as a way to correct an overly "otherworldly" tendency in religious belief and practice. Recent efforts in Christian "theology of hope" is a way of naming injustice in the world and at the same time recognizing the power of God both in time and at the end of time to set right that which human sinfulness has turned to evil. Fr. Jose Rubio noted that numerous narratives are shared by the Quran and the Bible and suggested further research on the revelation that we have in common. The dialogue provided an opportunity to examine the historical circumstances surrounding the revelation of the Quran in order to counter frequent misrepresentations of Islamic belief and practice in contemporary US society.

Canon Francis Tiso presented a survey of the history of Catholic Biblical interpretation, beginning with the decisive actions of Jesus in the Gospels. The Christological interpretation of Old Testament texts, the meditative reading of Scripture, and the role of preaching in the Patristic period were examined. Medieval exegesis and the four "meanings" or senses of Scripture were examined in the light of Renaissance, Reformation, and modern developments in the critical or scientific study of the text. Dr. Karim Abdullah's response addressed the question of the essential religious truths towards which interpretation must lead the believer. The text itself, illuminated by the message of monotheism in the Hebrew scriptures, makes demands of the interpreter. Careful interpretation, based on criteria that God has revealed, leads to correct action in the world.

CLINIC lawyer, Don Kerwin, directed attention to the problems the respective immigrant communities have been experiencing since the 9/11 attacks. CLINIC is a Catholic legal aid association under the USCCB; it monitors civil rights abuses and seeks to assist communities that are experiencing difficulties under the law. In addition, CLINIC provides critical evaluation of the effectiveness of law enforcement policies

of the government so that legislation can be improved. In a second session, Kerwin examined the basic principles of Catholic teachings on social justice and human rights, applying them to the situation of immigrants. Rights are seen as intrinsic and rooted in one's basic humanity, created by God; natural rights cannot be abrogated by states. Pastoral care of migrants is rooted in the long history of the People of God, from the migrations of Abraham and the ancient Israelites to modern refugees and asylum seekers. Pastoral care must also include political empowerment and safeguarding of basic human rights. Politically, it is necessary to ask what legal structures truly safeguard human rights and the common good of states. People who are exercising their natural right to migrate should be assisted by states with appropriate legislation. Considerable debate followed, examining cases and statistics cited by participants who are experienced in pastoral and social justice activities.

The dialogue group developed plans for another meeting at Rancho Palos Verdes in 2006, taking up the topic: "Sharing the Life of Faith," in which common narratives, festivals and family life, and women's concerns will be discussed.

## Institute at St. Joseph's Marks Two Historic Anniversaries

On **May 18, 2005**, the Jewish-Catholic Institute of Saint Joseph's University will commemorate two events which marked historic breakthroughs in the Catholic Church and interfaith relations in the United States.

The first was the conclusion in December, 1965 of the Second Vatican Council which, in four separate sessions from 1962-65, revised the discipline, theology and liturgical practice of the Roman Catholic Church in this country and throughout the world. The second was the promulgation by one Council of the docu-

ment **Nostra Aetate** ("In Our Time"), outlining a new perspective on the relations of the Church to non-Christian religions, especially to Judaism and the Jewish people.

Speakers for the program will be two highly respected scholars who have played a major role in much of the forty year history since the Council. Dr. Eugene Fisher is associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in charge of Catholic-Jewish relations, a post he has held since 1977. Rabbi James

Rudin is the former director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee and continues as senior interreligious advisor for the AJC.

The program, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 7:15 PM on the evening of Wednesday, May 18 in the Haub Conference Center, McShain Hall, on the St. Joseph's University campus. It will be preceded by an informal reception beginning at 6:15 PM. For further information contact Fr. Donald Clifford, S.J. at 610-660-1439.

## SEIA/NADEO

### An Institute for Interreligious Leadership

The National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical officers and the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs are again sponsoring the Institute for Interreligious Leadership in the summer of 2005 to provide training and professional development to ecumenical officers and others serving the Catholic community in this increasingly important area of concern.

The ten-day seminar will survey key Church documents, events, theological and pastoral principles, and current issues in the field. Major religious traditions of the world, particularly those present in the U.S. today, will be introduced. Dialogue topics arising from the current state of interreligious conversations and practical pastoral questions will shape the agenda according to the needs of the participants. There will also be opportunities to visit Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu, and Baha'i sites. The resource team will be led by Canon Francis Tiso, Ph.D. and Fr. Thomas Baima, S.T.D. Experts in the various religions will join the institute as guest lecturers.

The Institute will begin on Tuesday, July 5, 2005, and conclude at midday on Friday, July 15. It will be held at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois. The fee of \$998.00 will include registration, room, board, materials, and other expenses. Application accompanied by a \$100 deposit should be made to:

Institute for Interreligious Leadership  
 Canon Francis V. Tiso, SEIA  
 3211 Fourth Street Northeast  
 Washington, DC 20017-1194.



## Spring 2005 NADEO Report

Walter Cardinal Kasper visited Chicago and addressed ecumenical guests at a reception at the residence of Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. on September 30, 2004. Cardinal Kasper also gave a presentation at the Annual Ecumenical Seminar of the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (EIA Office). He also addressed faculty and students at both the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary and Catholic Theological Union.

Bishop Timothy Lyne, retired Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Chicago, and leaders from twelve other Christian churches participated in the annual Ecumenical Prayer Service during the Week of Prayer for

Christian Unity at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral on January 21, 2004.

On November 2 and 3, 2004, the Archdiocese of Chicago, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago co-hosted the annual Jewish-Christian Clergy Retreat at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary for approximately 70 clergy.

On February 21, 2005, Cardinal George delivered the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Jerusalem Lector at Anshe Emet Synagogue, speaking on "Catholics, Jews and American

Culture".

On October 28, 2004, Cardinal George addressed the annual Interfaith Iftar hosted by the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago at the Islamic Cultural Center of Greater Chicago. He spoke on "Persons of Faith in Conversations".

Members of the EIA Office participated in the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, sponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice, and the January 26, 2004 Service of Remembrance and Hope for the victims of the South Asia Tsunami, sponsored by the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago and the National Conference for Community and Justice.

## How Do We Develop a Younger Generation of Ecumenical Leaders?

*by Jason Renken*

How do we develop a younger generation of ecumenical leaders? At the 2005 National Workshop for Christian Unity, four young adult ecumenists seek the answers to this question: Andrew (AJ) Boyd, Roman Catholic; Melanie Gibbons, ELCA Lutheran; Jason Renken, Roman Catholic; and Whitney Walton, United Methodist.

But how do we develop a generation that has grown up with a very post-modern Christianity? Andrew Boyd reflects on this, stating, "Our passion for ecumenism must be at least as great as our passion for orthodoxy, for evangelization, for holiness, for service."

It is clear that the responsibility for "passing on ecumenism" rests both with those new to the ecumenical movement, as well as those who have been involved for decades. This is a mutual effort, and Boyd states that "[w]e must be bridge builders across generations and paradigms, not just denominations and politics."

Focusing on the formation of this next generation of ecumenists, there is a need for concrete ways to support them, as well as the denominational regions, ecumenical offices and churches they serve. For both clergy and laity, there continues to be a great desire – a hunger – for Christian unity, but little opportunity for newcomers to the movement to undergo a genuine introduction to the theology and praxis of ecumenism.

All ecumenists must be people of service, above all, to other Christians and to the ecumenical movement. We invite you to participate in this process by contacting Andrew Boyd at [aj@smmmparish.org](mailto:aj@smmmparish.org) or Jason Renken at [jrenken@archchicago.org](mailto:jrenken@archchicago.org).

After the 2005 National Workshop, you can keep up with the progress of developing a younger generation of ecumenical leaders by going to the NADEO web page at [www.nadeo.org](http://www.nadeo.org) and clicking on the button marked "For Young Ecumenists".

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DIOCESAN  
ECUMENICAL OFFICERS**

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**NADEO**

*"One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism"*

**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.nadeo.org](http://www.nadeo.org)**

## COMING EVENTS

### **Oriente Lumen IX**

June 13-16, 2005

San Diego University

San Diego, CA

&

June 20-23, 2005

Catholic University of America

Washington, DC

For more information:

[www.olconference.com](http://www.olconference.com)

### **SEIA/NADEO**

*Institute for  
Interreligious  
Leadership*

July 5-15, 2005

University of St. Mary of  
the Lake/Mundelein  
Seminary  
Mundelein, IL

### **NAAE**

The North American  
Academy of Ecumenists

September 23-25, 2005

NYC, NY

Conferences are professional and scholarly in substance and informal in style. Attendance at the conference is open to all who are interested in discussing the proposed theme.

Watch the Web for further information:

[www.naae.net](http://www.naae.net)