

NADEO NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Issue 3

December 19, 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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UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Brooklyn Priest/Scholar Named to Direct Ecumenical and Interreligious Office

Rev. James Massa, Ph.D., a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn and professor at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, NY, has been named Executive Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Father Massa succeeds Rev. Arthur L. Kennedy, Ph.D., a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston, who will return to teaching at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

USCCB General Secretary Msgr. William P. Fay announced the appointment, effective January, 2006. "Father Massa is a gifted scholar and a fine priest with significant ecumenical and pastoral experience," Msgr. Fay said. "We are fortunate that he will direct an office whose mission is so vitally important to the life of the Church." "I thank Father Arthur Kennedy for the extraordinary leadership he has given the Secretariat for these past three and one half years," Msgr. Fay said.

Father Massa completed undergraduate work at Boston College, where he earned a B.A. in Theology and in History at the University of Durham in England. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT.

After serving as a parish priest in Forest Hills, NY and a campus minister at the City University of New York, Father Massa pursued doctoral studies at Fordham University, where he wrote on communion ecclesiology under Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J. His doctoral dissertation was on "The Communion Theme in the Writings of Joseph Ratzinger".

Father Massa has published articles and book reviews on topics related to Christology, church and culture, and ecumenism. He is a member of the Society of Catholic Liturgy and the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars.

Over the past twelve years Father Massa has held teaching positions at Newman University in Wichita, KS and Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, MA. During that time he coordinated various programs for undergraduates and seminarians with the Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu communities. In addition to parochial duties in the Diocese of Brooklyn, he maintains formational responsibilities for men preparing for priestly service in the dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Center, and for The Vincentian Order. He is currently preparing a book-length manuscript on the ecclesiology of Pope Benedict XVI.

Father Massa's recent articles have included "The Lord's Day in the Theology of John Paul II" in *Antiphon* (Jan. 2005), "Dean of Theology: Avery Dulles at Eighty" in *Crisis* (Sep. 1998), and "Joseph Ratzinger: Theologian to the Church" in *Crisis* (March 1996). His review of *The Church in a Postliberal Age* by Yale Divinity School Professor George Lindbeck appeared in the summer 2004 issue of the *Thomist*.

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President's Letter by Fr. Robert Flannery

A Blessed Christmas Season and Joyous New Year to you, your loved ones, and those to whom you minister. May the coming year be a time of increasing ecumenical and interreligious awareness and progress for our Church and other faith communities.

Plans are complete for our upcoming **NADEO Program** which is part of the National Workshop for Christian Unity to be held in San Jose, CA from May 8 to 11, 2006. The site of the gathering is the beautiful Fairmont Hotel in downtown San Jose.

The NADEO program will include the **three seminars** selected by our Executive Board at our final meeting last April in New Orleans. #1—Evangelicals and Catholics, (Dr. Richard Mouw, President of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena; #2—A Christian Response to the Tensions in the Abrahamic Relations, (Dr. Scott Alexander and Fr. John Pawlikowski, OSM of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago; #3—Motivations and Models for Diocesan Commissions and Local Parish Planning (Dr. Richard Linneberger of Virginia Beach, Sr. Josephine Kase, IHM of Philadelphia, and Mr. Andrew Boyd of Seattle.

The NADEO Luncheon Speaker will be Fr. Thomas Rausch, SJ, from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, who will address the topic, "Ecumenism in the Hispanic Community", **The LARC Luncheon Speaker** will be Archbishop Emeritus John Quinn of San Francisco, who will give reflections from his book on papal authority; the president for the **NADEO Eucharist** will be the local ordinary, Bishop Patrick McGrath, and the homilist will be the new chair of the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (BCEIA), Bishop Richard Sklba of Milwaukee.

We take this occasion to

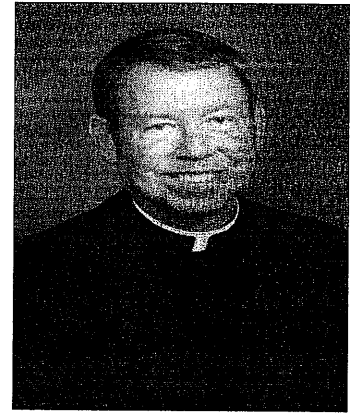
thank **Bishop Stephen Blaire** of Stockton, CA, who was Chair of the BCEIA the past three years. Bishop Blaire did an excellent job in leading the committee in a wide variety of arenas. Fortunately, he will continue to be part of the Catholic delegation participating in Christian Churches Together in the USA.

NADEO also welcomes the **newly appointed director of the USCCB Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (SEIA), Fr. James Massa, Ph.D.** of the Diocese of Brooklyn. Father Massa begins his duties in January. The replacement for Br. Jeff Gros, FSC, will hopefully be named in the near future.

The Introductory Institute for Ecumenical Leadership will be held this coming summer from August 1 to 10, 2006 in St. Louis. The Institute is strongly recommended for all new ecumenical and interreligious officers, as well as commission members, parish representatives and chancery officials. The presenters will be Br. Jeff Gros, FSC, and Fr. Ron Roberson, CSP, of the SEIA. We would like at least twenty participants, so we hope those who have not yet been able to attend will do so. All others are asked to pass on the word to appropriate individuals in your area.

The 2007 National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) will be held in the Washington, DC area from **January 29 to February 1, 2007**. Please note that the workshop is earlier than usual. It should be an exciting conference focusing on religion and politics among other important topics. **Mark your calendars now!**

Please see to it that your diocese or eparchy is current with your **2006 NADEO dues**, so that you can be a voting member. We depend upon your financial support to carry on the numerous functions



and projects of our National Association. There will be several important matters which we will be voting on at our upcoming General Assembly. They include, **voting on the new By-Laws and voting on the possibility of a change in our official name** from either NADEO to NADEIO (National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers), as recommended by the Faiths in The World Committee, or to CADEIO (Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers), as suggested by several individuals including our former president, Fr. Vince Heier and myself. This all follows the lead by our Episcopalian counterpart, EDEO, which changed its name to EDEIO to reflect the language of their national church office as well as present religious realities.

Our association **mourns the death** of widely known ecumenist, Fr. John Long, SJ, and also the passing of Fr. Richard Ford, ecumenical officer for Allentown, PA. May they both rest in God's welcoming embrace.

In closing, in the name of all of us at NADEO, we thank **Mrs. Barbara Tisch** administrative assistant to Fr. Tom Baima, the NADEO Newsletter Editor, for her excellent work in assisting with our newsletter over the past several years. Barb is leaving her present position at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein. We wish her well.

God's peace and have a great Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,

Fr. Bob Flannery

President, NADEO

ICCJ CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO, JULY 24-27, 2005

by Sr. Mary Ellen Coombe, nds

About 300 Jews and Christians from more than twenty countries gathered in Chicago this summer for a conference of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ). The theme for the conference was *Healing the World – Working Together: Religion in Global Society*. The conference opened with an address by Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches and response by Rabbi David Rosen, Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee, and the presentation of the Annual ICCJ Sir Sigmund Sternberg Award to Dr. Mary Boys.

The conference explored the issues of religion in public life – in the United States, Europe, South America, Canada and Australia/New Zealand. Conference participants discussed theology, studied text together, wrestled with ethical issues, longed for peace, prayed, laughed, cried, and shared ideas for programs. The sessions were stimulating, but as is always the case a very important part of the conference was the making and renewing of friendships – the necessary support for the work of Jewish-Christian relations back home.

The conference itself was indeed a witness to how much has happened in Jewish-Christian relations since *Nostra Aetate* – in many countries, there are Christian and Jews who work diligently to break down prejudices and deepen relationships. It is amazing to think that we can now talk about and even imagine that we work together to heal the world.

FAITH AND ORDER PLENARY IN KUALA LUMPUR

The Plenary Assembly usually meet twice during the seven years of its appointment. A smaller Standing Commission consisting of thirty members of the larger Commission, meets annually to carry on the work. The recent meeting in Kuala Lumpur was the present commission's first and only Plenary meeting, since no other is planned before the next WCC General Assembly in February, 2006.

The theme of the meeting was "Receive one another, as Christ received you, for the Glory of God" (Romans 15:7). The Commission reviewed the full range of Faith and Order work involving studies on ecclesiology, baptism, ecumenical hermeneutics, anthropology, ethnic and national identity and the unity of Christians, and a theological reflection on peace.

The theme of our meeting,

invited us to reflect on our common obligation to welcome one another; to look beyond our divisions and to work together for the visible unity of the Church. The new General Secretary of the WCC, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, gave a thoughtful introduction to our theme. In further discussions, we were challenged both by the doctrinal and historical divisions among the churches and by the estrangements between races, women and men, rich and poor, ethnic and national groups. Here, we recognized the importance of our mutual acceptance in Christ. Through the mystery of the Incarnation, Christ assumes the whole of human nature. As our very identity is a gift from God, we are called to follow this example: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). A spirituality of welcome, of reception, of hospitality,

is central to the self-understanding of those who identify themselves as Christian.

The study on baptism logically occupied the first place on our agenda. Our exchanges, challenged us to see the implications and the limitations of the present degree of our mutual recognitions of baptism. And, since baptism is a primary basis of ecumenism, it demands that we work towards a common understanding of the Church. Our discussions confirmed the importance of Faith and Order's study of the nature and mission of the Church. There are still many questions we need to explore together but we became aware of reaching a moment of hope, having identified a framework which might enable churches to move forward in terms of mutual recognition. Other ecclesiological

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2005 Institute for Interreligious Leadership

by Jason Renken

From July 5-15, 2005, seven ecumenical officers, staff and commission members met in Mundelein, IL for the 2005 Institute for Interreligious Leadership co-sponsored by NADEO and the USCCB Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (SEIA).

Fr. Francis Tiso, SC of the Secretariat and Fr. Thomas Baima, Provost of the University of St. Mary of the Lake facilitated the Institute. Additional lecturers included Dr. Scott Alexander, Director of Catholic-Muslim Studies at Catholic Theological Union; Dr. Donald Mitchell, Professor of Comparative Philosophy at Purdue University; and Fr. Julian von Duerbeck, O.S.B., a monk of St. Procopius Abbey and Instructor in Religion at Benedictine University.

The Institute followed the magisterial teachings of the Catholic Church, with readings from Francesco Gioia's *Interreligious Dialogue: The Official Teaching of the Catholic Church (1963-1995)* and additional current sources. A discussion of Catholic principles and the methodology of dialogue set the stage for a survey of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Bahá'í and New Religious Movements. Each survey included a presentation of central teachings of the respective religion, the relationship between the Catholic Church and the religion, and a visit to the religion's local house of worship, if possible. The Institute concluded with an extended discussion of Catholic structures at the service of interreligious dialogue and the spirituality of dialogue.

USCCB - continued from page 1

Fr. Massa has served at Good Shepherd Church, Marine Park, NY, St. Helen's Church, Westfield, NJ, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Wichita, KS, and Saint Joseph's Church, Long Island City, NY. He serves as the Bishop's Liaison to Seminarians of the Diocese of Brooklyn, Convenor of the Diocesan Committee for Advanced Studies for Priests, and as Director of the Summer Philosophy Institute at Immaculate Conception Seminary. He is on the Board of the Curran Center for American Catholic Studies at Fordham University, and is a participant in the Fordham three-year seminar, "Passing on the Faith, Passing on the Church"

Fr. Massa served as Theological Advisor to the USCCB Committee on the Laity from 2003 to 2004.

The history of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs dates to 1964, when U.S. bishops meeting at the Second Vatican Council established a Commission, as it was then called, for

Ecumenical Affairs. The Commission opened a staff office (the present Secretariat) at the headquarters of the USCCB in Washington, D.C. on January 7, 1965.

Today the official dialogues in which the BCEIA Secretariat is engaged include the North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation, the Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops, the Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation, the Polish National Catholic-Roman Catholic Dialogue, the Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultation USA, the Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue, the Roman Catholic-Reformed Consultation, the United Methodist-Catholic Dialogue, the Faith and Order Commission, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, and the Consultation with the National Council of Synagogues.

Other relationships include those with the African-American Churches, Pentecostal, Holiness and Evangelical, Mennonite, Brethren Churches, the Society of Friends, and

the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Secretariat also staffs the USCCB's participation in "Christian Churches Together in the USA," a new national ecumenical forum that is still in the process of formation.

Ongoing interreligious dialogues of the Secretariat include the Midwest Dialogue of Catholics and Muslims, the Mid-Atlantic Islamic-Catholic Dialogue, the West Coast Dialogue of Muslims and Catholics, and the Northern California Chan/Zen-Catholic Dialogue.

The dialogues and relationships have produced numerous reports and special studies over the past four decades.

Archdiocese of Chicago

Fall 2005 NADEO Report

The Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (EIA Office), along with the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA and the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, planned and participated in the **second Annual Lutheran-Episcopal-Roman Catholic Trinity Sunday Service** on May 22.

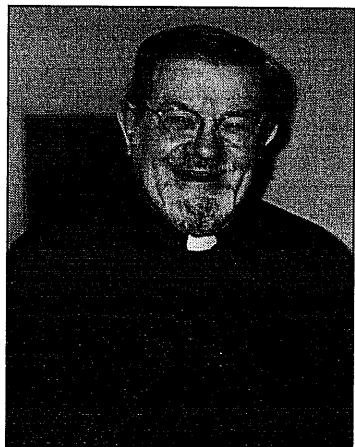
The EIA Office and Catholics of the Archdiocese also participated in the following significant events in Catholic-Muslim relations:

- 1) **“A Conversation between Imam W. Deen Mohammed and Francis Cardinal George, OMI: Faith and the Common Good”**, co-hosted with The Mosque Cares on July 25.
- 2) An invitation to attend the **42nd Annual Islamic Society of North America Convention** from September 2-5, including the Interfaith Unity Banquet on September 2.
- 3) An invitation to attend the eighth **Annual Interfaith Iftar** sponsored by the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago on October 11. **Francis Cardinal George, OMI attended and delivered the Catholic perspective on “Poverty and Hunger”**. Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, Chair of the CIOGC, delivered the Muslim perspective.

The EIA Office also participated in the **20th Annual Interfaith Memorial Observance for Indigent Persons** on May 25.

Cardinal George received the 2005 Founder’s Award of the National Conference for Community and Justice and delivered an address on “Pope Benedict XVI and Interfaith Dialogue” on June 24.

Farewell to Father John Long, SJ—*by Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC*



All the members of the National Association Diocesan Ecumenical Officers mourn, pray for, and are grateful to God for the life and ministry of a noble Jesuit ecumenist, Fr. John Long, SJ. He was a friend to many of us, a recipient of our Fitzgerald award, and a mentor to some. He presided over some of the most historic shifts in the Church, as staff to the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity during and after the Council, for 17 years, working with the drafting of the 1967 and 1993 ecumenical directories and the 1998 ecumenical formation text. He served NADEO for many years as the anchor for our Ecumenical Leadership Institute for new officers.

While his ascribed bibliography is modest, he contributed to ground breaking documents of the Holy See, to the ice-breaking correspondence with the Orthodox churches early in our approaches with them, and finally to history-making agreed texts which are the building blocks for a new millennium of reconciliation to replace the last of alienation. His gentle, generous and theologically informed persistence has enriched

the Catholic Church, the retrieval of our Eastern birthright, and the gradual opening of the reticent Orthodox world to the reconciling call of Christ. He has contributed to the spiritual growth of many of us and our ecumenical colleagues, and to the building up of the Body of Christ in its twenty-first century institutional expression.

We were indeed blessed that one of his last public appearances was to commemorate forty years of the Council, at the NADEO Program in New Orleans.

As a fellow pilgrim he has been a guide, support and goad to us; and a great witness to the Roman Catholic Church and its ecumenical calling.

ECUMENICAL NEWS

The Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity July 2004

The ninth meeting of the fourth phase of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity took place from July 9 to 17 in Baltimore, upon the invitation of the Lutheran World Federation.

This dialogue is sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU). From the Lutheran side, the Commission is co-chaired by Bishop Dr. Bela Harmati of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary. From the Roman Catholic side, it is co-chaired by Archbishop Alfons Nosol of Opole, Poland. The secretary on the Roman Catholic side is Rev. Dr. Matthias Turk (PCPCU) and on the Lutheran side Rev. Sven Oppegaard (LWF).

The other participants present were, on the Lutheran side: Prof. Dr. Kristen Kvan (USA), Prof. Dr. Ricardo Pietrantonio (Argentina), Prof. Dr. Turid Karlsen Seim (Norway), Prof. Dr. Yoshikazu Tokuzen (Japan), the

Presentations were made to

Rev. Dr. Pirjo Tyorinoja (Finland), Prof. Dr. Theo Dieter (France-Germany), and for this meeting Prof. Dr. Eric Gritsch from Baltimore, USA. On the Catholic side: Bishop Dr. Gerhard Schwenzer (Norway), Prof. Dr. Margaret O'Gara (Canada), Prof. Dr. Jared Wicks, SJ (USA) and Prof. Dr. Angelo Maffeis (Italy). The two interpreters were Ms. Donata Coleman and Ms. Ursula Gassmann.

Excused were Presiding Bishop Samson Mushemba (Tanzania) and Prof. Dr. Gunther Wenz (Germany) on the Lutheran side, and Rev. Dr. Polykarp Chuma Ibebuike (Nigeria) and Prof. Dr. Eberhard Schockenhoff (Germany) on the Roman Catholic side.

From the beginning, the goal of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue has been the visible unity of the Church. The first phase of the dialogue (1967-1971) concentrated on the Gospel and the Church. The second phase (1973-1984) treated the Eucharist and the Ministry in the Church. The topic of the third phase (1986-1993) was Church and Justification. In 1999 the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification was solemnly signed. This special event was also based on findings in this dialogue.

The focal topic of the present phase is the Apostolicity of the Church. At this year's meeting, the Commission proceeded with its work on biblical, historical and systematic theological aspects of the theme. The Commission carried out its work on the basis of revised drafts received from the drafting group, which had met in Erfurt, Germany, in April 2003 and in Rome in March 2004.

In detail, the Commission discussed:

- *The Apostolicity of the Church-New Testament Foundations.*
- *The Apostolic Gospel and the Apostolicity of the Church.*
- *Apostolic Succession and the Ordained Ministry.*
- *Church Teaching which Remains in the Truth.*

The conclusion of the work is expected in 2005, and the report is scheduled for publication in 2006.

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PUBLICATION NOTICE

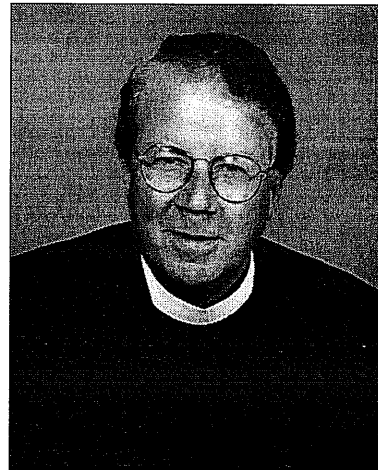
The NADEO Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers. NADEO is a professional society whose purpose is to stimulate the exchange of ideas and experiences among the ecumenical officers serving the Catholic Church in the dioceses of the United States 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 62901-2709. 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 at www.nadeo.org.

Fr. Arthur Kennedy Completes Term as Executive Director of Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

The Rev. Arthur Kennedy has completed his term as Executive Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (SEIA) at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Fr. Kennedy served in this role since 2002. He will return to the University of Saint Thomas in Saint Paul, MN, where he is a full professor of theology.

At the secretariat, Fr. Kennedy participated in the Faith and Order Dialogue on "Justification, Sanctification, *Theosis* and Justice." He was the staff person responsible for the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue, the Evangelical-Roman Catholic Dialogue, the Consultation on Common Texts, and Christian Churches Together in the USA.

Fr. Kennedy was co-founder of the Interfaith Theological Forum: Jews and Catholics. He also organized the fortieth anniversary celebration of *Nostra Aetate* in Washington, DC.



His participation in other dialogues sponsored by the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs has included: Reformed-Roman Catholic; National Association of Synagogues (Orthodox Jewish and Roman Catholic); Lutheran-Roman Catholic; Bruderhof-Roman Catholic; Baptist World Alliance – Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity; Bishops' Institute on Islam; Mid-Atlantic Muslim-Catholic Dialogue; Chan/Zen – Catholic Dialogue; the Abrahamic Roundtable; United States Conference on Religions for Peace, and Evangelicals and Catholics Together. He was also a participant in the fortieth anniversary celebration of *Unitatis Redintegratio* in Rocca di Papa, Italy in 2004.

During his time at SEIA, Fr. Kennedy also served as the President of the National Ecumenical Officers Association (2003-2005).

Fr. Kennedy is a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston. He received his B.A. (Phil.) from Saint John Seminary College (Brighton), MA, the S.T.L. from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and the Ph.D. from Boston University.

FAITH AND ORDER PLENARY IN KUALA LUMPUR

Continued from page 3

work from the Special Commission on Orthodox Participation in the WCC, together with an ecclesiological statement being prepared for the Council's Ninth Assembly in 2006, will need to be taken into account.

The divisions within and among our churches reflect not only theological and ecclesiological differences, but also strife within the human community. We therefore welcome our commission's more recently initiated

studies which have these issues clearly in view. One seeks to explore theologically the implications of Christian faith for the role of the churches in situations of ethnic and national conflict. Another examines the Christian understanding of the human person created in the image of God. A further study on ecumenical hermeneutics calls us to listen carefully and patiently to one another as we respond to the truth of the Gospel, and helps us

to appreciate the riches of interpretations of Scripture within various traditions and contexts. Our theme of "receiving one another" resonates with all of these important studies.

ECUMENICAL NEWS *cont. from page 6*

During the meeting, the Eucharist was celebrated each day, alternating between Roman Catholic and Lutheran rite.

On Saturday evening July 10, the group was hosted by the Lutheran Bishop of Baltimore, Bishop Gerard Knoche, who had organized a garden party at his estate outside Baltimore for the group.

On Sunday July 11, a worship service in the German language was celebrated at Zion Church of Baltimore, where Archbishop Nossol delivered the homily. It was followed by a Eucharistic service in the English language, also at Zion Church, where the homily was delivered by Bishop Har-

mati. Participants were able to meet the members of the congregation during the usual church coffee hour. On Sunday afternoon, Bishop Knoche invited all the members of the Commission on a yacht trip outside the Baltimore harbor area.

On Wednesday July 14, the Eucharist was celebrated at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, followed by a dinner at the Pastoral Center hosted by Auxiliary Bishop W. Francis Malooly of Baltimore in the absence of Cardinal William Keeler, who was traveling.

The Commission was

unanimous in its appreciation of the hospitality it received at Zion Church where the meeting and meals were held.

The Commission was impressed by the way the meeting was prepared, and expressed its gratitude especially to Dr. Erich Gritsch and his wife, Mrs. Bonnie Brobst, and the Lutheran pastor of Zion Church, Rev. Dr. Holger Roggelin, as well as the many volunteers of Zion Church.

The next meeting of the dialogue Commission will take place from September 22-30, 2005.

2006 National Workshop on Christian Unity

San Jose, California - Fairmont Hotel

May 8-11, 2006

Plan to attend the 2006 National Workshop on Christian Unity

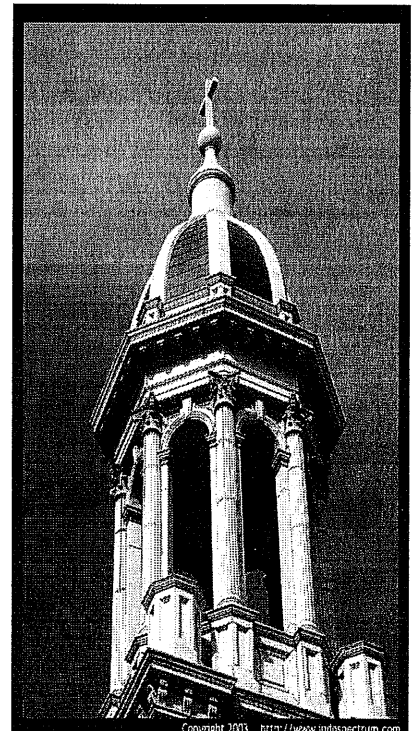
- ⇒ Opening Worship will be at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph
- ⇒ All events are within walking distance of our workshop site at the downtown Fairmont Hotel

Plans are underway for the 2006 National Workshop on Christian Unity in the capital of Silicon Valley, San Jose, California, with the San Jose Fairmont Hotel serving as our host. The event will open on Monday May 8, 2006 and will conclude with lunch on Thursday, May 11.

Located between San Francisco and the Carmel-Pebble Beach resort area, San Jose is the west coast's largest city north of Los Angeles and is among the ten largest cities in the United States. All events will be located within short walking distance of the workshop hotel.

The Local Planning Committee and the National Planning Committee are working together to complete arrangements for the 2006 event. In planning to attend the event, you may wish to plan additional time to visit the nearby attractions, from the wine country to the north to the Monterey Bay area to the south.

Registration is available online at: www.nwcu.org



ECUMENICAL NEWS

Joint Working Group Between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches

“The future of ecumenism demands a return to the spiritual roots of the movement,” stated the Joint Working Group (JWG) between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches

(WCC) at its meeting in the Orthodox Academy of Crete, Kolympari, Greece, 6-13 May 2004.

Formed in 1965 following the Second Vatican Council, the JWG is charged with initiating, evaluating and sustaining the many forms of collaboration between the two parent bodies. Its members, most of whom are involved in pastoral and ecumenical ministries in different regions, are appointed by the World Council and the Holy See following each Assembly of the WCC.

Led by the co-moderators, Archbishop Mario Conti (Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow, Scotland) and Bishop Jonas Jonson (Lutheran Bishop of Strangnas, Sweden), this was the fifth and final meeting of the group appointed after the Eighth Assembly of the WCC in 1998.

The Academy director, Dr. Alexandros Papaderos, welcomed participants and recalled that through nearly four decades the center had hosted many significant ecumenical gatherings. His Eminence Irenaeus, Metropolitan of Kisamos and Selinon, the diocese in which the Academy is located, greeted the JWG and affirmed strongly the importance of its work.

Representatives of each parent body shared news of significant developments in ecumenical relations. These included preparations for forthcoming meetings of the World Council's Faith and Order Commission (2004), Conference on Mission and Evangelism (2005) and Ninth Assembly (2006) as well as bilateral relationships between the Roman Catholic Church and other churches.

The meeting adopted three studies developed by JWG sub-committees, dealing with *The Ecclesiological and Ecumenical Implications of a Common Baptism*, *The Nature and Purpose of Ecumenical Dialogue*, and *Roman Catholic Participation in National and Regional Councils of Churches*.

Participants approved a report covering the work of the JWG 1999-2005 and the collaborative efforts between the offices and agencies of the WCC and the Holy See during the same period. Describing the JWG's work as “First and foremost a journey of faith,” they assessed past achievements and shared their hopes for the movement's future.

The report, with the three study documents, will be submitted to the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Assembly of the World Council of Churches. Until the appointment of new members following the next WCC Assembly, the JWG Executive Committee will carry forward the work and maintain the relationship.

Bishop Brian Farrell LC, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, led the group in a fresh examination of the Vatican II document on ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of its publication. The JWG marked the feast day of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs and Patrons of Europe, by celebrating Vespers and the Holy Liturgy in the Academy chapel dedicated to the two brothers. Fr. Viorel Ionita informed the group of the significance of the two saints for the spread of Christianity in Europe.

Each morning and evening, participants gathered for prayer in the Academy's chapel. On the Sunday, JWG members attended the Holy Liturgy at the Monastery of Chrysopigi in Chania, and were introduced to the life and work of the convent by Mother Theoxeni, superior of the community. Later, at the dependent Monastery of St. Kyriaki, they were welcomed by His Eminence Irenaeus, Metropolitan of Chania.

The co-moderators expressed the gratitude of JWG members for the warm hospitality of the Orthodox Academy of Crete and the kindness and encouragement of all who had welcomed them to the island.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DIOCESAN
ECUMENICAL OFFICERS**

Rev. Thomas A. Baima, Editor
University of Saint Mary of the Lake
1000 East Maple Avenue
Mundelein, IL 60060

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 847-970-4866
Fax: 847-970-4818
Email: tbaima@usml.edu



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COMING EVENTS

NWCU

2006 National Workshop on
Christian Unity

May 8-11, 2006

San Jose Fairmont Hotel

San Jose, CA

Watch for more information at
the NWCU website:

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SEIA/NADEO

*Institute for Ecumenical
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August 1-10, 2006

Mercy Center

St. Louis, MO

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2007 National Workshop on
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January 29, 2007 to
February 1, 2007

WASHINGTON, DC Area

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