

CADEIO CONNECTION

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Reports Issue

June 2010



Highlights from the 2010 National Workshop on Christian Unity

by Julie M. Conroy, editor



New executive officers elected at the CADEIO General Assembly: (from left) Rev. Erich Rutten, treasurer; Rev. Don Rooney, president; Rt. Rev. Alexei Smith, vice president; Msgr. George Appleyard, secretary.

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Ecumenical dialogue must “be animated by Christian charity,” Archbishop of Atlanta Wilton Gregory exhorted attendees at the 2010 National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) in Tampa, Florida, April 19–22. He echoed a message by Bishop Geremia Bonomelli of Cremona to the Edinburgh missionary conference of 1910.

CADEIO members gathered at the workshop for the annual CADEIO General Assembly and to mingle with representatives from other denominations and denominational networks.

In his keynote address, Archbishop Gregory noted that churches sometimes make independent decisions that present a stumbling block to their ecumenical partners. He recounted recent

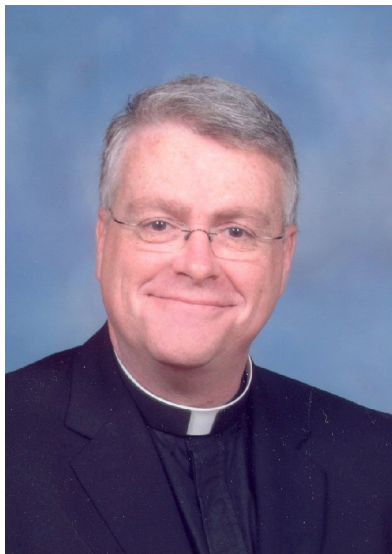
steps by the Catholic Church that have frequently been misunderstood. He also referred to the difficulties arising from decisions by some denominations in regard to moral issues.

While recognizing the need to “speak the truth” in ecumenical dialogue, the archbishop said that charity must lead the way. “It is this dialogue of charity that will reopen new possibilities in our relationships that we cannot now foretell.”

Other events of the workshop included the CADEIO annual luncheon on Tuesday, where the recipient of the annual James Fitzgerald Award for Ecumenism—Edward Idris Cardinal Cassidy—was announced. Although the

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President's Letter by Father Don Rooney



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

For this first letter to you as the newly elected president of CADEIO, I offer you greetings of peace and unity in Christ, our Lord. I'm sure I cannot even imagine the volume of good work that you do in his name, a work that is often difficult and quietly done, yet ordinary to our identity whether we are Catholic or belonging to any other assembly of people who claim Christ as our head and our goal. It is a work—your work—that is surely pleasing to him.

In the Catholic Church we've had a refresher course lately on the words "ordinary" and "extraordinary" with regard to sacred liturgy, haven't we? "Extraordinary" doesn't mean "more remarkable" or "extra-special," it means "in addition to" the confirmed and usual way we go about our life of worship in the Body of Christ. It is a confrontation between precise language and common use: Ecumenism, the work of seeking Christian Unity, is completely ordinary, normative to who we are, not an extracurricular but rather an integral part of what it is to be who we are. Simply see the sheer volume of work that our Holy Father has written in support of what you do and also don't miss the small and powerful ways that these words and your words take hold in the relationships you build each day in the name of Jesus Christ.

Time has passed so quickly already since our National Workshop on Christian Unity in April. It was a wonderful success. Participation was down, most certainly because we have seen such reductions in budgets. We should start this conversation early for next year—by the way, save the date for NWCU 2011 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 9–12—about how we might work toward finding assistance for ecumenical officers to attend. My parish of St. Mary is sending 36 youth and 10 adults to work camp this summer... There must be some way we can find funding to really take advantage of this wonderful workshop as a source of renewal and continuing education each year even where finances are limited.

"Ecumenism, the work of seeking Christian Unity, is completely ordinary, normative to who we are, not an extracurricular but rather an integral part of what it is to be who we are."

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Our Advanced Institute of Ecumenical Leadership is well under way, thanks to Father Bob Flannery, who is organizing the last week of July for us in Collegeville, Minnesota. Realizing, of course, that this is the year for the advanced-level classes, I request that you consider now planning for next year's institute—the Institute for Inter-religious Leadership—if you haven't begun the three-year cycle. Ask for \$900 in your budget for registration, and whatever you would need for round-trip travel to Chicago. I'll even drive a shuttle to and from the airport and Mundelein if I have to, to save transportation costs! Hopefully, we will have dates very soon for the institute next year.

I'm very excited about the possibilities of this role as president of CADEIO, and I hope that we can truly bring to light the fruits of all the work that have gone before us as we move into the second decade of this century. We thank Father Alexei Smith from Los Angeles, serving as our vice president; also Msgr. George Appleyard of Pittsburgh, our secretary (who is the best secretary I've ever encountered); and treasurer Father Erich Rutten of Saint Paul. May we be of service to you and your work. Know that you can contact us with any questions or needs.

A goal of mine this year is to sincerely seek, as an association, fuller participation from the dioceses in CADEIO. Please help us keep up with your contact information, especially now that changes are taking place in assignments! Check to make sure your diocese is current on its membership contributions, and let us stay in touch with one another, sharing best practices and fresh ideas so that the face of Christ can be always new, and always inviting to all his members.

“Check to make sure your diocese is current on its membership contributions, and let us stay in touch with one another, sharing best practices and fresh ideas so that the face of Christ can be always new, and always inviting to all his members.”

For all who get some time off this summer, may it be exactly what you hope for.

In Christ,



Father Don Rooney

National Workshop on Christian Unity



Left: CADEIO luncheon speaker, Father Jared Wicks, SJ; below: Father Ernest Falardeau, SSS, New York; and Garland Pohl, Nominations Committee chair, Galveston-Houston; below left: CADEIO members sign in to vote at the general assembly; right: Father Charles Langlois, Lafayette; Sister Judy Kreipe, IHM, Philadelphia; and Msgr. Michael Carroll, Philadelphia; below right: Father Joe Witmer, Youngstown; Father Luke Edelen, OSB, Newark, and Father Phil Latronico, Newark.

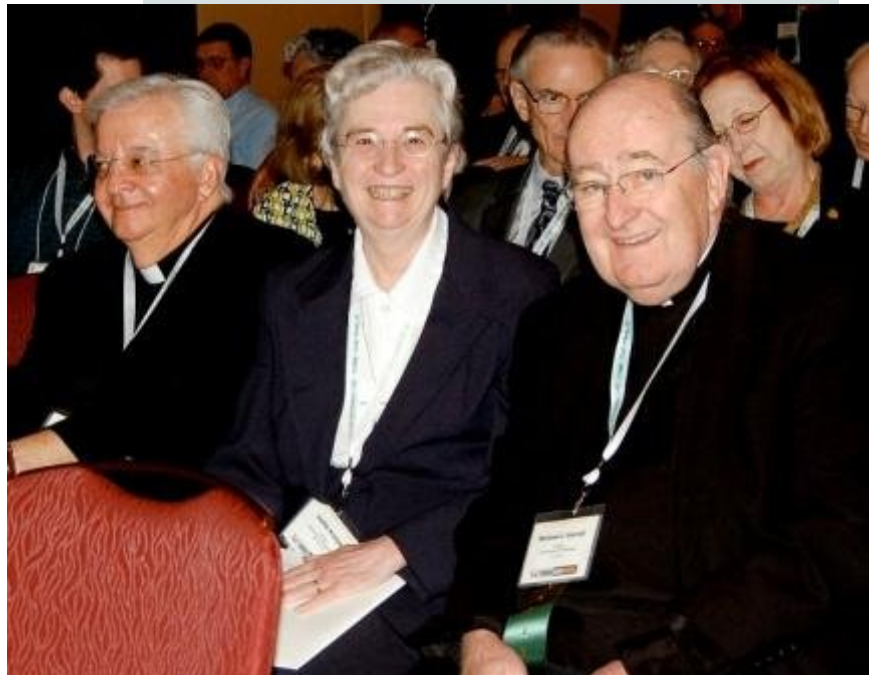


2010 NWCU

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cardinal was unable to attend himself, he sent a letter of acceptance (see page 9). Luncheon speaker Father Jared Wicks, SJ, a Catholic theologian and participant in the U.S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue, then analyzed responses from dialogue partners to **Harvesting the Fruits** by Cardinal Walter Kasper. CADEIO seminars on “Interfaith Sensitivity” and “Canonical Issues in Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations” commenced that afternoon, and in the evening CADEIO held its annual Eucharistic celebration at the historic Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

The highlight of the CADEIO General Assembly on Wednesday afternoon was the election of new executive officers, who will serve for the next three years. Rev. Don Rooney of the Diocese of Arlington and pastor of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Fredericksburg, Virginia, was elected president; Rt. Rev. Alexei Smith, ecumenical and interreligious officer of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and pastor of



St. Andrew Russian Greek Catholic Church in El Segundo, California, was chosen as vice president; Msgr. George Appleyard of the Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma and pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pennsylvania, became secretary; and Rev. Erich Rutten of the

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Father Bob Flannery's Closing Remarks as CADEIO President at the End of the General Assembly

I want to take this opportunity to thank the membership of CADEIO for the privilege of serving you and our great association during these past six years. In a special way, I am grateful to the executive officers who have served with me during my two terms of office: George Appleyard, Dennis Mikalanis, Joe Wallace, Don Rooney, and John Churpita. I appreciate all the good work accomplished by the members of the board of directors during this time, whether they have served as executive officers, regional representatives, or committee chairs.

During my tenure, I have made a concerted effort to get more individuals involved in the undertakings of our association by limiting the terms of office—a concept introduced by me in our last bylaws revision—and by encouraging people not to hold two positions in the association simultaneously. It has been my strong conviction that getting more people involved in the leadership and work of an association is vital for the viability and credibility of any group.

With the same recently revised bylaws, we also introduced and implemented the election of all four executive officers, rather than electing only the president who would then appoint the remaining officers. We also asked for nominations in advance and then announced the slate of the various candidates before the annual gathering. Following a specific procedure, we began the practice of proxy voting for those not able to be present at the general assembly on a given year.

Three years ago, after the initial recommendation was made by the Faiths in the World Committee to include the term “interreligious” into our Association’s name, I proposed that we also include the term “Catholic” in order to be more descriptive and to recognize that there are other national ecumenical associations in other denominations besides our own. After several possible ways were suggested to include both terms in our association’s name, our membership voted on “CADEIO” (formerly NADEO) to be our association’s official title. After the name was approved, our executive officers presented plaques to the previous NADEO presidents, signifying the transition of our official name.

As your president, I was asked by the executive director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (SEIA) to form a delegation of eight CADEIO members to represent CADEIO at the papal ecumenical vespers service in New York City in April 2008. After I consulted with the other three officers, a group was formed that consisted of a variety of executive officers, committee chairs, and a young ecumenist—women, men, clergy, lay, religious, single, and married from around the country.

Three years ago, recognizing the need for better communication and planning among the five denominational networks (EDEIO, LERN, UMEIT, EIF-P, and CADEIO), I suggested to the other network presidents that it would be advantageous if we could meet before the annual EDEIO, LERN, and CADEIO board or liaison gathering each winter in Delray Beach, Florida. In addition, the presidents now meet for several hours the Sunday afternoon before the National Workshop on Christian Unity.

When I attended my first meeting of the Committee of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (CEIA) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2004, I requested that part of the Catholic delegation being formed to the new ecumenical body, Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT), include a representative of CADEIO. For the first three years, I attended the annual meetings myself in order to better understand the functioning of the new body and to lift up our association as your president. After that, I appointed a regular member as liaison and formed a new committee chair position.

I have also strived to strengthen the role of the regional representatives, placing their oversight in the office of the vice president, a function done by many other national associations, ecumenical and otherwise.

In closing, it has been truly a pleasure and joy to serve you and represent all of you in various ways and venues over these past six years. Thank you again for the trust you placed in me, and for the opportunity to be of service to you in our shared ecumenical and interreligious ministry. God’s peace to your always!

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Msgr. George Appleyard (left) presents an icon of SS. Peter and Paul to Father Bob Flannery in appreciation for his six years of service as president of CADEIO.

Closing Remarks

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Addendum

During my tenure of six years, I have been pleased to represent our association at a variety of ecumenical and interreligious functions. Apart from registration fees, I have used my own funds for travel, board, and room, with the exception of several national meetings and institutes. I attended the National Council of Christian Churches, USA, 2004 annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, and also visited their national offices in New York City. In 2004, I was present at the Parliament of the Worlds' Religions in Barcelona, Spain. The summer of 2005, I attended the International Council of Christians and Jews in Chicago, Illinois. In 2006, I attended the Ninth General Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Porto Alegre, Brazil. I attended both the Orientale Lumen Conference in Washington, D.C. in 2005 and the Euro-East Conference in Istanbul in 2007. In 2008, I visited the WCC in Geneva, Switzerland, staying two days at their institute in Bossey. That same

summer, I was a participant at the three-week Graymoor Institute at Centro Pro Unione, Rome, Italy. While there, our group visited the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. In March 2009, while making arrangements for the Advanced Institute of Ecumenical Leadership in Collegeville, Minnesota, I was present for the presentation of the Saint John's Abbey and University Pax Christi Award to Walter Cardinal Kasper, President of the PCPCU. In 2009, I attended the Georgetown University Institute for Muslim Imams and Christian Pastors. In August 2009, I stayed at the Catholic Conference of India in New Delhi, India, and visited with groups and individuals of the Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist faiths. My three-week visit took me throughout India and Sri Lanka. In October of this past year, I attended the Midwest Muslim-Catholic Dialogue in Milwaukee. Attendance at all of these events was in addition to my presence at the three institutes jointly sponsored by CADEIO and the SEIA and CEIA of the USCCB. Should anyone like to have any more information about any of the above institutes or conferences, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Report of the Awards Committee—2010

by Father Charles Parr, Paterson (New Jersey)

The current focus of the Awards Committee continues to be the annual presentation of the James E. Fitzgerald Award, within the context of the annual meeting.

The current, full-time, dues-paid members of the association were contacted by e-mail in early February 2010 to solicit nominations for this prestigious honor. Three responses and nominations were received. The three persons successfully nominated this year were Cardinal Edward Idris Cassidy (president-emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity), the Reverend Monsignor Raymond Barton (Richmond), and the Reverend Thomas Baima (Chicago).

These three nominations, with appropriate documentation, were forwarded by e-mail to the

members of the executive board of directors, the executive officers of the association, and the chairs of the association's standing committees.

This March 2010 e-mail voting, in a "weighed vote," resulted in the selection of Cardinal Cassidy as the 2010 recipient of CADEIO's James E. Fitzgerald Award "for outstanding contribution and service in the work of Christian Unity and Interreligious Understanding and Cooperation."

In the March 2010 issue of the **CADEIO Connection**, President Father Robert Flannery relates the process that will be followed to present the actual award to Cardinal Cassidy in Australia, as well as a presentation of his prepared remarks, in response to his selection.

Mark DelMonico Wins CADEIO Essay Contest



Congratulations to Marc DelMonico, winner of the 2010 CADEIO Essay Contest for his essay, "You Are Witnesses of These Things?: An Ecumenical Spirituality of Witness in Luke 24." Marc received a scholarship of \$500, in addition to an all-expense-paid trip to the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) in Tampa, Florida, in April.

Marc is a doctoral candidate at the Catholic University of America, where he is studying historic and systematic theology with a focus on ecclesiology. In addition, Marc serves part time as web outreach coordinator for Franciscan Action Network. He is also a certified cantor with the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

The topic for the annual essay contest comes from the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The contest is open to full-time, graduate-level theology students who are preparing for ministry. The other ecumenical networks that participate in the NWCU run a parallel contest using the same theme.

Dear Father Bob,

Once again, please accept my thanks and convey my gratitude to all at CADEIO for providing me with the opportunity to participate in the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Tampa in April. It was tremendously enriching and enjoyable to meet so many good people dedicated to the important work of ecumenism!

I plan to stay involved in the work of both organizations and hope to see you all again soon. Thanks too for helping me spread the word about Franciscan Action Network and making the connections that allowed me to display a table there.

Blessed Pentecost!

Peace,

Marc DelMonico
 Doctoral Candidate
 Catholic University of America

Dear Father Flannery,

Many thanks for your call this morning and for your e-mail communications informing me that the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers in the United States had chosen me to be the 2010 recipient of the prestigious James Fitzgerald Award.

Looking through the list of James Fitzgerald Award honorees, I feel deeply honored to be in such illustrious company, quite a few in fact being persons I have known well and admire greatly for their contribution to ecumenism and interfaith ministry.

Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to be with you on April 20 this year to receive this award and express personally my gratitude for such an honor. Unfortunately, the years have finally caught up with me: 86 in July and 61 years of priesthood in that same month, and if I am still alive, I shall have my 40th anniversary of Episcopal ordination in November. Since 2006, when on two trips to the United States I had great trouble with my bronchial tubes, I have avoided long flights, and I have restricted my activities even here to light pastoral work.

Please accept my apologies for not being able to join you on April 20, but be assured of my appreciation of the award and my prayerful support for all your activities.

May the joy of Easter be yours in abundance this year,

Edward Idris Cardinal Cassidy

Christian Churches Together Annual Meeting Report

by Father Alexei Smith, representative to CCT

The Christian Churches Together (CCT) Annual Meeting was held Jan. 12–15, 2010, with evangelism as the primary focus. A complete report, including photos, is available on the CCT website (<http://www.christianchurchestogether.org/>). Ninety registrants, plus 15 seminarians and young church leaders, attended. Some churches, such as the Episcopal and Greek Orthodox Churches, were represented by local clergy rather than by national leaders. The National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference was welcomed as a new CCT participant.

Dr. Mel Robeck from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, set the tone for our days together with his stirring keynote address the first evening, “Evangelism in an Ecumenical Context: Celebrating Edinburgh 1910,” in which he boldly stated that “all churches are equal partners in evangelization,” and then developed four areas of concern for our consideration and discussion:

- As churches, we need to trust one another completely: We do not need to become the other—it is unity, not uniformity, we seek. Trust means not forcing our agenda on others. Are we sufficiently trustful of other denominations to entrust our children and grandchildren to them for evangelization?
- We can only give common witness if we set aside the desire to

receive credit for what we do. Yes, it feels good to be numbered among the successful, but agreements that accomplish things do not bear the name of individual authors.

“Dr. Mel Robeck from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, set the tone for our days together with his stirring keynote address the first evening, ‘Evangelism in an Ecumenical Context: Celebrating Edinburgh 1910.’ ”

- We can only give common witness when we agree on a common definition of evangelism—some churches have developed programs in opposition to other churches, manifesting tensions among us.
- We can only give common witness when we agree on a definition of proselytism—our definitions differ! This needs to be

addressed in very clear terms, and all churches need to agree to live by those terms.

Dr. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, briefly addressed us on the first evening as well.

We released two pastoral statements of solidarity: one with the people of Haiti, who had been devastated by a terrible earthquake the day before our meeting began, and the other with the Christian community in Egypt, where Coptic Christians were murdered after their Christmas Eve Liturgy in Nag Hammadi.

One full day of our meeting was held at the Headquarters of World Vision, where after a warm welcome and worship service, we were given a tour of the facility. In the afternoon, we participated in workshops: I attended two, “The Emergent Church Movement” and “Evangelism and Social Justice.”

Consideration was given to whether CCT should simply remain on the national level as the broadest table of ecumenical relationships in the United States or have expression on the local level. It was decided to cautiously move ahead with a plan to offer the CCT model to local and regional groups. I am a member of the committee drafting this plan. “Local level” would be defined as regional networks that have participants from all five CCT constituent families (Historic Protestant,

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Nominations Committee Report

by Garland D. Pohl, Chair

By mandate of revisions to the constitution and bylaws in 2006, a new procedure for the election of officers of CADEIO was established.

The current president of the association, Father Bob Flannery, appointed Garland Pohl, immediate past-president, as chair of the Nominations Committee. Four other members were also appointed to serve: Father Joseph Loya, Father Charles King, Sister Joyce Cox, BVM, and Father Ernest Falardeau, SSS.

The committee composed a letter introducing the procedure and attaching a form for nominations to derive at the slate of candidates two months before the election. Nominees for the offices of president and vice president were required to be full members of the association and to have served previously on the board of directors. Nominees for the offices of treasurer and secretary could be chosen from those who are either in full or in associate membership and were not required to have served on the board. Full membership was required for the

nominator, and the consent of the nominee needed to be obtained before his or her nomination.

Five nominations were received by mail and brief biographies and photographs of the candidates were published in advance of the election through a CADEIO mailing as specified in the new directives. The nominees are as follows: for president: Father Don Rooney, Diocese of Arlington; for vice-president: Father Alexei Smith, bi-ritual priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; for secretary (two nominees): Sister Judith Kreipe, IHM, Archdiocese of Philadelphia; and Msgr. George Appleyard, Ukrainian Eparchy of Parma; and for Treasurer, Father Erich Rutten, Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul. According to the bylaws, nominations remain open until noon of the day preceding the election of officers, which takes place as the first order of business at the general assembly. Nominations in writing, with the candidate's consent, may be presented to any

member of the board of directors by the Tuesday noon deadline.

According to our new bylaws, proxy votes are now permitted under Bylaw I, Section 4b:

If a diocese/eparchy holds a full membership in the Association and no full member from that diocese/eparchy will be present at a meeting of the Association, one proxy vote may be vested in another full or associate member. A letter of delegation indicating the proxy is to be sent by the full member who is to be absent to the president before the general assembly begins. The delegated member must be present at the meeting to cast the proxy ballot.

Editor's note: Father Phil Latronico, Archdiocese of Newark, was later added as a nominee for CADEIO president.

CCT Report

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African American, Catholic, Orthodox, and Evangelical). Such regional networking might be built around geographic proximity, program affinity, or other preferences that are appropriate

for the particular region. It would not be designed to replace or impede existing ecumenical councils or groupings that are currently working well, but in those areas where such councils either do not exist or are not working, perhaps the CCT model, presented as a movement and not an organization, might.

As a way of making more people aware of CCT and engendering the involvement of local communities in CCT, it was suggested that some kind of public worship service be held in conjunction with our annual meetings.

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Faiths in the World Committee 2010 Report

by Father Phil Latronico

Faiths in the World (FITW) held its annual working meeting at the Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center, Chicago, Oct. 13–15, 2009. Those in attendance for the entire meeting were Father Phil Latronico (co-chair), Professor Donald Mitchell (co-chair), Dr. Scott Alexander, Father Thomas Baima, Judith Longdin, Father Francis X. (Butch) Mazur, Jason Renken, and Father Leo Walsh (Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic bishops). Dr. John Borelli rejoined the committee and was present for part of the meeting. President of CADEIO Father Bob Flannery, attended the meeting on Oct. 13. The following members were excused: Father Joseph Loya; Father John Pawlikowski, OSM; Father Thomas Ryan, CSP; Rita George Tvrtkovic; and Loretta Tracy.

The time in Chicago was spent looking back on our history, the realities of the present, and the hope for tomorrow. John Borelli's return to the committee helped us reflect on our rich history. He was the founding co-chair of FITW in 1983. The addition of Father Walsh brings a fresh breath to our conversation, as does the addition of Jason Renkin.

In our discussion we found that currently all the dialogues are at a stage of needing to firm up contacts, to expand new contacts

because many dialogue partners are in flux, and to resurvey the land of dialogue.

We believe we need to work on the following items as a committee:

1. Conduct a survey of inter-religious realities on the diocesan level.
2. Renew our committee with younger scholars and ecumenical and interreligious officers.
3. Think of new ways for doing dialogue.
4. Rethink the format for regional interreligious dialogues.

In discussing possible future workshop topics for our CADEIO seminars, we realized that the areas for interreligious and inter-faith discussion have greatly expanded over the years as our dialogue partners have increased in number and type. Among the new realities for discussion are the many new forms of religiosity that have been developed by people who have wed multiple religious views to form new types of practice, and the new expressions of agnosticism and atheism.

We agreed that those at the National Workshop on Christian Unity 2010 in Tampa would convene for a dinner meeting on Wednesday, Apr. 21. We plan to meet again in Chicago at the Cenacle Oct. 12–14, 2010.

Suggested Workshop Topics

1. “Yoga” and “Yogas”—A Look at Local Practices and Realities. Possibly led by Father Tom Ryan and another person for dialogue.
2. “The Flying Spaghetti Monster” and Other Religious Phenomena You May Find on the College Campus Today—A look at the many new groups that present themselves as alternative religious experiences.
3. “The Hindus Next Door”: Overview of Hinduism. Possible presenter: Dr. John Borelli; suggested evening activity: site visit to a Hindu temple (Himalayan Institute, Pittsburgh).
4. “The World is Coming to an End!!!... Again!!!!” Responding to End-Time Prophecies. Possible presenters: Father Leo Lefebure or Father Bob Schreiter.
5. New Atheism—A Growing Reality.

National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA CADEIO Liaison Report, April 2010

by Father Joe Witmer

The Ecumenical Network Standing Committee (ENSC) of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCC) has met three times this year, in addition to holding three conference calls.

The ENSC is approaching the general assembly of the NCCC, seeking to lodge the unit within the assembly itself in order to be of greater service to the NCCC and also to communicate more effectively with the network of ecumenical persons and organizations around the country (e.g., with CADEIO).

The NCCC General Assembly will meet in November 2010 in New Orleans and then not again until 2012, to accommodate the declining revenues available to the member churches.

The meeting of the general assembly will be Nov. 9–11. Then for Friday, Nov. 12, a broad ecumenical event is planned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the foundational Edinburgh Conference of 1910. Attendance will be sought from many involved in the ecumenical movement. The components of the Nov. 12th event are still in the planning stages, and information will be disseminated as soon as it is available.

CCT Report

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CCT will continue its commitment to address poverty: David Beckman, president of Bread for the World, presented a comprehensive report on the current state of domestic poverty entitled **How US Churches and Society are Responding to Increased Poverty**. A major CCT action in several cities across the United States was suggested for April 2, 2011. This nationally coordinated effort would focus attention on homelessness and poverty within each community. Such a “nationally coordinated effort” would—in my opinion—require staff and funding, perhaps through a grant. It was agreed to explore this project further.

CCT’s vitality remains in the depth of relationships and trust that are continuing to be built among its participants.

NWCU 2010

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Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and director of campus ministry for the University of St. Thomas accepted the position of treasurer.

General NWCU events included opening worship on Monday evening at Sacred Heart, where Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church Katharine Jefferts Schori gave the sermon; seminars on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; a joint-networks plenary on Tuesday afternoon hosted by United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training; a two-part Bible study on Wednesday about “Generation of the Eucharist in the New Testament”; a Wednesday

plenary on reception by Rev. Dr. William G. Rusch, followed by a lunch discussion for strategizing reception in local areas; and a closing luncheon on Thursday with an address by Dr. Thomas Best. The workshop also offered an optional cultural event on Wednesday evening: a buffet dinner and visit to the exhibits at the Florida Aquarium.

The CADEIO Board of Directors met before the NWCU on Monday, April 19, at the beautiful Bethany Center on Mary Lake, which is owned by the Diocese of St. Petersburg. After the workshop, the board met again to discuss evaluations by CADEIO participants and to conduct initial planning for the next NWCU, which will be held at the Sheraton on Station Square in Pittsburgh, May 9–12, 2011. The week concluded with a joint-networks board meeting.

LERN Liaison Report

by Judi Longdin, LERN Liaison

My meetings with the Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network (LERN) Executive Board this year were limited to the opening and closing sessions at the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU). However, I have received routine mailings, including the minutes of monthly meetings and the LERN newsletter, **LERNings**. Executive board members have also graciously shared working documents such as the LERN strategic plan.

National Workshop 2010

I met with the LERN Executive Board at the opening and closing sessions of the NWCU. LERN addressed a number of significant issues during their three plenary meetings at the NWCU. The first plenary included staff reports on the status of various full communion agreements and relationships with ecumenical partners (including Moravian, United Methodist, Roman Catholic, AME-Zion, Mennonite, and Missouri Synod). The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is also working on a statement related to interreligious understanding, which could go before the churchwide assembly in 2011. LERN members also received a strategic plan to be discussed in regional caucuses with input given at the final plenary. The second plenary focused primarily on United Methodist–ELCA relations, and the final session looked at the LERN

strategic plan (which was accepted with minor amendments) and the ecumenical implications of the ELCA sexuality study and vote.

The final ELCA executive board meeting at the NWCU focused on follow-up to the strategic planning document and other issues raised in plenary sessions; consideration of recommendations to the NWCU Planning Committee, including the suggestion that all future workshops include a reception component; discussion of LERN communications, both internal and with other networks; and discussion of the Student Essay Contest.

Monthly Meetings

LERN representatives meet on a regular basis throughout the year via conference call. Significant issues raised in meetings included the ELCA position on human sexuality; the NWCU 2010, the LERN strategic plan, the CADEIO liaison, the “Reception Tool Kit,” the national celebration of the 10th anniversary of **Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification**; reports on other bilateral conversations, the student essay contest, and content and dissemination of the LERN synodical report (to gather data from LERN representatives about ecumenical activity in all synods). A report given by one of the ELCA ecumenical staff (generally Don McCoid or Michael Trice) on the status of bilateral dialogues and other ecumenical and

interfaith relations is a regular part of these meetings.

Presidents’ Meeting and Student Essay Contest

Representatives of CADEIO, Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers, LERN, and United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training met in Del Ray in February 2010 for the Network Presidents’ Meeting. I was unable to attend this meeting, where there was some discussion of the future of the annual Student Essay Contest. Some questions to be pondered: Is this the best vehicle for bringing in students? Who is responsible for crafting the essay questions? How do we get the word out? Should we have a joint reading committee? Can we come up with a uniform process for scoring the essays? This year, Chris Olkiewicz (LERN) created a scoring tool that helped to streamline and standardize the scoring process. Should each network provide the same award? This year CADEIO was the only network to offer a scholarship in addition to covering the expenses of the winner to the NWCU.

Copies of **LERNings**, the LERN manual, and other resources can be downloaded at the ELCA website (<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Ecumenical-and-Inter-Religious-Relations/Lutheran-Ecumenical-Representatives.aspx>).

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2009

by Msgr. Patrick Halfpenny

It was a good year financially for CADEIO. A great deal of activity occurred in the various programs, and no one division was over budget. We were able to end the year with a surplus of \$6,536, compared to a surplus of \$4,382 the previous year.

The National Workshop on Christian Unity continues to be a subsidized item. Expenses for last year's workshop were lower than in previous years at \$8,617 (\$10,287 in 2008), but revenues were lower at \$7,960, compared to \$8,205 the year before.

Total assets at the end of the year were \$108,994. In addition, CADEIO has a certificate of deposit in the amount of \$10,000, which is under control of Father Leo Walsh from his term as treasurer.

Nevertheless, only 107 of the 189 possible dioceses or eparchies and organizations paid dues of \$200 in 2009. This actually is an increase of three from the previous year. On the other hand, the number of associate members has grown to 87 from 34 the

year before, likely because many dioceses are paying for their commission members to be associates.

Recommendations

1. That full membership dues for the coming year be kept at the same low price of \$200 for an eparchy or diocese, and that associate member dues be kept at the extremely reasonable, but low, price of \$10.
2. That there be a concerted effort on the part of the membership, perhaps using episcopal persuasion, to recruit those dioceses and eparchies and religious organizations that have not yet joined and are not supporting the organization.
3. That the 2011 proposed budget be accepted as presented.

See pages 16–17 for the 2009 Income and Expense Report and the 2011 Proposed Budget.

Report from the CADEIO Liaison to EDEIO, April 2010

by Father Joseph D. Wallace, EDEIO Liaison

Mission of the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO)

- To develop, train, and support a network of Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers within the Episcopal Church.
- To identify, initiate, support, communicate, and celebrate the ecumenical activity at the level of the diocese and parish.
- To communicate with/for Standing Commission on Ecumenical/Interreligious Relations and National Ecumenical Office(r).
- To advocate the commitment of the resources of this Church to the goal of one Eucharistic Fellowship following the mandates of the General Convention.
- To encourage liaison and collaboration with other entities of the Church engaged in ecumenical work.
- To foster dialogue with non-Christian faith traditions leading to deeper understanding and strengthened mutual and respect, and sharing in God's call for justice and peace.

Reports

- National Day of Prayer
- Directory and Bylaws
- Elections
- Reports from Provincial Representatives
- Role of Network Liaisons

Income and Expense Report for Year Ending December 31, 2009

Account Number	Account	Actual	Budget
Revenue			
101	Full Membership Dues	\$ 21,400.00	\$ 26,000.00
102	Assoc. Membership Dues	\$ 870.00	\$ 750.00
103	Publications/Royalties	-	\$ 100.00
104	Institute	-	\$ 1,500.00
105	National Workshop	\$ 7,960.00	\$ 11,000.00
106	Interest	\$ 49.91	\$ 1,500.00
107	Donations	\$ 20.00	-
Total Revenue		\$ 30,299.91	\$ 40,850.00
Expenses			
201	General Administration	\$ 1,752.00	\$ 2,500.00
202	President's Office	\$ 4,489.90	\$ 4,500.00
203	Faiths in the World	\$ 1,126.63	\$ 2,700.00
204	Episcopalian/Catholic	\$ 1,169.20	\$ 1,500.00
205	Lutheran/Catholic	\$ 831.90	\$ 1,500.00
206	National Workshop	\$ 8,617.00	\$ 16,000.00
207	Research & Development	-	\$ 1,000.00
208	Newsletter/Website	\$ 433.10	\$ 3,000.00
209	Board Meeting	\$ 1,921.72	\$ 2,200.00
210	Catholic/Jewish	-	\$ 1,000.00
211	Fitzgerald Award	\$ 196.96	\$ 750.00
212	Publications	\$ 47.36	\$ 1,000.00
213	Contingency	-	\$ 1,000.00
214	Handbook	-	\$ 500.00
215	NCCC Liaison	\$ 988.83	\$ 1,500.00
216	Scholarships/Grants	\$ 675.00	\$ 1,000.00
217	Ecumenical Promotion	-	\$ 1,000.00
218	Student Essay Contest	\$ 1,439.20	\$ 2,000.00
219	CCT-USA	-	\$ 1,000.00
220	Institute	\$ 75.00	\$ 2,500.00
Total Expenses		\$ 23,763.80	\$ 48,150.00
Projected Surplus (Deficit)			\$ (7,300.00)
Actual Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 6,536.11	

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2011

Account Number	Account	2010 Budget	2011 Proposed Budget
Revenue			
101	Full Membership Dues	\$ 26,000	\$ 25,000
102	Assoc. Membership Dues	\$ 600	\$ 500
103	Publications/Royalties	\$ 100	-
104	Institute	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
105	National Workshop	\$ 11,000	\$ 9,000
106	Interest	\$ 1,500	\$ 500
107	Donations	-	-
	Draw on Reserves	\$ 5,800	-
Total Revenue		\$ 46,500	\$ 36,500
Expenses			
201	General Administration	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
202	President's Office	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
203	Faiths in the World	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,500
204	Episcopalian/Catholic	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
205	Lutheran/Catholic	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
206	National Workshop	\$ 14,000	\$ 12,000
207	Research & Development	\$ 1,000	\$ 500
208	Newsletter/Website	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000
209	Board Meeting	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,200
210	Catholic/Jewish	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
211	Fitzgerald Award	\$ 1,000	\$ 600
212	Publications	\$ 1,000	\$ 500
213	Contingency	\$ 1,000	\$ 500
214	Handbook	\$ 500	\$ 300
215	NCCC Liaison	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,200
216	Scholarships/Grants	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000
217	Ecumenical Promotion	\$ 1,000	\$ 500
218	Student Essay Contest	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
219	CCT-USA	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200
220	Institute	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Total Expenses		\$ 46,000	\$ 36,500
Projected Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 500	-
Actual Surplus (Deficit)			

Report of the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

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

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

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

Staff: Rev. James Massa, Rev. Ronald G. Roberson, C.S.P., Rev. Leo Walsh, Mr. Neil P. Sloan, Mrs. Elena Tejada, Ms. Jessica Desnoyers, Very Rev. Robert B. Flannery.

Christian Churches Together in the USA

Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT) held its 2010 plenary meeting near Seattle, Washington, Jan. 12–15. Since the main theme of the meeting was evangelization, we ensured that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB's) perspective would be clearly expressed by inviting Bishop Richard J. Malone, the chairman of our Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, to attend the meeting, as well as Rev. John E. Hurley, CSP, former director of the Secretariat for Evangelization. This year's plenary provided for an opportunity to reflect on the ways in which our divisions hamper our efforts to evangelize, and on the strong link between ecumenism and the effectiveness of our witness.

At this meeting the CCT participants also continued their earlier focus on poverty in the United States and endorsed a proposal to encourage local leaders of our denominations to work together on a common day of action against poverty on Apr. 2, 2011. This proposal is very preliminary and will require further reflection, coordination, and funding if it is to succeed. The participants also released a statement about the situation in Haiti (the

earthquake took place on the first day of the meeting), and also an expression of concern about Christians in Egypt where six Coptic Orthodox faithful were gunned down after Christmas Eve services in the town of Nag Hammadi.

I am happy to report that we had a strong USCCB presence at this meeting. In addition to Bishop Malone and myself, three other bishops attended, as well as seven other representatives. Bishop Malone offered a Catholic response to a presentation on the history of evangelization in the United States, and Rev. Allan Deck, SJ, executive director of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, offered a seminar on Evangelization and Culture from a Catholic perspective. Father Deck's seminar took place at the headquarters of World Vision, an evangelical-oriented social relief agency, just a few miles from where the plenary was taking place.

Eastern Orthodox Relations

The North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation has not met since my last report. The visit of His Holiness Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, took place as planned in October and November and included a number of important contacts with our hierarchy. The international dialogue met on the island of Cyprus in October and continued its work on a common statement on the role of the bishop of Rome in the Church in the first millennium. Unfortunately the confidential draft statement that was prepared for consideration in Cyprus was published by the Italian journalist Sandro Magister in January. The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity issued a statement pointing out that the text was only a draft and had no authority or official status. The international dialogue will meet again in October 2010 in Vienna.

Oriental Orthodox Relations

Our national dialogue with the Oriental Orthodox Churches has not met since my last report. However, the international dialogue between the Catholic Church

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and the Oriental Orthodox Churches, co-chaired by Cardinal Walter Kasper and Coptic Orthodox Metropolitan Bishop of Damiette, met in Beirut, Lebanon, Jan. 27–31. This dialogue issued a joint statement a year ago entitled, “Nature, Constitution, and Mission of the Church,” that brought together the fruits of several years of joint reflection. At this meeting the dialogue continued its study of the ways in which communion was expressed among our churches during the first five centuries of Christian history when we were still in full communion. This study will continue when the dialogue meets again in January 2011 in Rome.

Polish National Catholic Relations

The Polish National Catholic (PNCC)–Roman Catholic Dialogue met in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Sept. 28–29. It considered a draft set of recommendations regarding the transfer of clergy from one church to the other; these suggestions are being drawn up in an effort to reduce as much as possible the dismay and confusion that often occurs when such transfers take place, especially if the priest is re-assigned to an area where he had worked previously as a member of the clergy of the other church. There was also discussion about the Catholic understanding of the development of doctrine and PNCC considerations regarding the two Marian dogmas of the Catholic Church. For now, this dialogue has decided to meet once each year; the next meeting is slated for November 2010 in Baltimore just before the USCCB plenary.

Anglican Relations

The Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue in the USA (ARC-USA) met just a few days ago and continued its study of the current theme, “Ecclesiology and Moral Discernment: Common Ground and Divergences.” In its broad-ranging exploration of moral issues, this session is looking at same-sex unions, end-of-life issues, and the relationship between ethics and ecclesiology.

The tensions that have existed within the Anglican Communion in recent years over the ordination of active homosexual persons to priestly and episcopal

ministry continue to deepen. Setting aside the “gracious restraint” that Episcopalians were asked to show on this matter for the sake of the unity of the communion, a convention of the Diocese of Los Angeles last December elected Rev. Mary Glasspool, who has lived with the same female partner since 1988, as suffragan bishop of the diocese. She must still be confirmed in office by a process that will take a few months.

Dr. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, alluded to this in a statement from Lambeth Palace that was issued the day after her election:

The election of Mary Glasspool by the Diocese of Los Angeles as suffragan bishop elect raises very serious questions not just for the Episcopal Church and its place in the Anglican Communion, but for the Communion as a whole. The process of selection however is only partially complete. The election has to be confirmed, or could be rejected, by diocesan bishops and diocesan standing committees. That decision will have very important implications. The bishops of the Communion have collectively acknowledged that a period of gracious restraint in respect of actions which are contrary to the mind of the Communion is necessary if our bonds of mutual affection are to hold.

If Mary Glasspool is confirmed in office, it would appear that the Episcopal Church (TEC) is committed to continuing down this path for the foreseeable future, with implications for the unity of the Anglican Communion that are still unclear.

Only a few days after the election of Mary Glasspool in Los Angeles, I met in Atlanta, at their request, with representatives of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), including Archbishop Robert Duncan, the new primate of this more conservative Anglican grouping. This was considered a private, unofficial meeting in view of the fact that ACNA is not yet recognized as an Anglican Province by the Archbishop of Canterbury. ACNA wants to have a friendly relationship with the Catholic Church in this country insofar as possible. There was agreement in principle to have annual consultations in order to

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continue our relationship. Currently, ACNA has about 100,000 members whereas TEC has approximately 2.1 million members.

Last November, the Holy Father issued the Apostolic Constitution **Anglicanorum coetibus**, which provides for the establishment of personal ordinariates to accommodate Anglicans who wish to become Catholic while retaining significant elements of their heritage and traditions. I do not intend to comment on the ramifications the establishment of the personal ordinariates may have on the life of the Catholic Church in the United States. I would like to observe, however, that I have not noted any serious ecumenical setbacks as a result of this announcement. In the press release about its meeting last October (after the announcement about the new structures but before the issuance of **Anglicanorum coetibus**) the members of ARC-USA, echoing a statement by the Archbishop of Canterbury, stated that “the members welcomed the Catholic Church’s acknowledgement of a substantial overlap in faith and the legitimacy of many Anglican traditions, a recognition that is the fruit of over 40 years of official dialogue between the two churches.” There have been some negative reactions from Anglicans (and some Catholics as well) who view the establishment of the personal ordinariates as a form of proselytism, an invitation to Anglicans to abandon their church and become Catholics. But the reaction has been much more positive among those Anglicans who accept the explanation of Cardinal Walter Kasper and others that these structures were created to accommodate those Anglicans who have already made a decision to become Catholic. In this sense, as Cardinal Kasper has pointed out, the new structures are entirely consistent with the ecumenical posture of the Catholic Church.

Lutheran Relations

Round XI of the U.S. Lutheran–Roman Catholic Dialogue will meet again Mar. 11–14, 2010, at St. Paul’s College in Washington, DC, for its ninth meeting. The drafting subcommittee is prepared to present the dialogue with a complete draft of the statement, “The Hope of Eternal Life.” Bishop Richard Sklba of Milwaukee, co-chair of the dialogue,

indicates that the statement will show convergences and divergences in Catholic and Lutheran understandings of eternal life, against the backdrop of the historic **Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification** (1999). Topics covered in the document include Lutheran perspectives on prayers for the dead, the Catholic doctrine of merit, and biblical treatments of judgment, heaven, and hell, as well as an explanation of historical questions regarding Purgatory and indulgences.

“I urged our ecumenical partners and our own ecumenical specialists to draw on the whole body of Christ, past and present, as they interpret the Word of God for our time.”

Last Oct. 1, Cardinal Francis George and Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Mark Hanson presided over a service of evening prayer at Old St. Patrick’s Church in downtown Chicago to mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the **Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification**. Signed by the Holy See and the Lutheran World Federation in Augsburg, Germany, on Oct. 31, 1999, the declaration expressed common agreement on the main issue that divided the Catholic Church and the Protestant communities in the 16th century, namely, how human beings are made righteous in the eyes of God and saved by Jesus Christ. The doctrine of justification is, according to the declaration, no longer a church-dividing issue for Catholics and Lutherans, even though differences between them remain in language, theological elaboration, and emphasis surrounding those basic truths. The World Methodist Council adhered to the declaration in 2006.

As my last report briefly noted, I gave the homily at the service and acknowledged that Catholic-Lutheran fellowship “is real and grounded in a

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common profession of faith in Christ.” Drawing on the image of the baptismal garment and Augustine’s notion of the **Totus Christus**, I urged our ecumenical partners and our own ecumenical specialists to draw on the whole body of Christ, past and present, as they interpret the Word of God for our time. “Honesty requires that we acknowledge how much more work needs to be done by both our communities” for the declaration to take root within our respective communities. I cited, in particular, our profoundly opposing views on homosexuality and the criteria for moral discernment as two areas where dialogue must continue in earnest.

The immediate backdrop for the celebration, and a development that has made Catholic-Lutheran relations ever more complex, was the approval by the ELCA’s churchwide assembly (Aug. 19 and 21, 2009) of a controversial statement on human sexuality and a set of new policies that permit the rostering of clergy in same-gender relationships (<http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/JTF-Human-Sexuality.aspx>). Our committee and the Committee on Doctrine had earlier responded to an invitation from the ELCA to respond to the sexuality statement, which we did in a letter that cautioned against abandoning biblical teaching on homosexuality. In a video-taped message to the churchwide assembly, I noted that at stake in their deliberations “are the teachings of Scripture and Tradition that safeguard the noble purposes of human sexuality and the fundamental meaning of marriage, which is a reflection of God’s covenant with us in Christ.” I also reminded them of the words of Pope Benedict XVI at the ecumenical service in New York City on Apr. 18, 2008, at which the Holy Father asserted that without this adherence to Holy Scripture “our communion with the Church in every age is lost—just at the time when the world is losing its bearings and needs a persuasive common witness to the saving power of the Gospel (cf. Rom 1:18–23).”

Methodist Relations

Against the backdrop of the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change, the Methodist-Catholic Dialogue

met at St. Paul’s College in Washington, Dec. 15–17, 2009. This was the third meeting of Round 7, which is devoted to examining Christian responsibility for the environment from the perspective of the Church’s rich sacramental heritage. Co-chaired by Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, the session included papers on patristic readings of the connection between the Eucharist and creation; the mystical theology of Teilhard de Chardin; United Methodist Church (UMC) teachings on the environment; and a comparative reading of Thomas Aquinas and John Wesley on the virtues. The dialogue appears to be moving toward a final statement on the covenantal relationship that exists between Christian worshipers and the natural environment. Thought has also been given to the development of an instrument on faith and ecology for adult education to be used in local congregations and parishes.

Members also reported on developments in Copenhagen, which featured religious leaders speaking about the need to link combating environmental degradation with economic development. On the second day of the session the Vatican released Pope Benedict XVI’s World Day of Peace Message (Jan. 1, 2010), of which the theme this year was “If you want to cultivate peace, then protect creation.” Earlier in the fall, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I visited the United States and spoke at a number of venues on the spiritual renewal needed around the world to redress the destructive effects of deforestation and uncontrolled fossil-fuel emissions. At a Methodist Eucharist, UMC Bishop Timothy C. Whitaker, co-chair of the dialogue, spoke of the natural world as “a loving gift from God.” Bishop Whitaker drew on the writings of Methodism’s founder, John Wesley, in showing how “social holiness” belongs to the basic call to discipleship with Jesus Christ. “Through social holiness, we make ourselves channels of God’s blessing to the world—a blessing that extends to the renewal of all creation.”

The next meeting of the dialogue will be at St. Paul’s College, June 28–30, 2010.

Faith and Order Commission

The mission and the Trinitarian nature of the Church were discussed at the Fall 2009 meeting of the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of

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Churches of Christ (NCCC) in the USA at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, Oct. 15–17. The commission conducts its work principally in three study groups for each quadrennium. In the current four-year round (2008–2011), the group charged with investigating the “Nature and Mission of the Church” took up two tasks. The first was a discussion of members’ papers on the “Church of the Triune God,” which will form the first part of a final report. The second task was to explore how the North American context shapes ecclesiology in the members’ various communions. The “Unity in Mission” group again took up a series of papers that will likely comprise part of an anthology that treats this aspect of ecumenical engagement. Finally, the “Justice and Salvation” group continued its work in developing a study guide to help parishes and congregations to reflect on the relationship between social ministries and Christian teachings on salvation.

The Reverend Dr. Michael Kinnamon, general secretary of the NCCC, addressed the commission on the first full day of the working session on the council’s efforts to renew its own identity as an ecclesial, conciliar reality: “a communion of communions, a council of churches.” He challenged sending bodies, including the Catholic Church, which has been a member since 1968, to consider whether ecumenism is integral to their self-identity “or merely an appendix.” The next meeting of Faith and Order will take place Mar. 18–20, in New York City, where it will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 1910 Edinburgh World Missionary Conference—the watershed meeting that launched the modern ecumenical movement. The USCCB delegation to Faith and Order is composed of three scholars and is led by the secretariat’s hired field representative, Dr. Christopher Ruddy of the Catholic University of America.

Jewish Relations

The USCCB and the National Council of Synagogues of America (NCS) held their fall consultation at Jewish Theological Seminary, Nov. 11, 2009, at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of New York.

Rabbi Alan Brill of Seton Hall University and Father Arthur Kennedy of St. John’s Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, spoke on the theme “dialogue and witness in the perspective of our faith traditions.”

Concern over a paragraph in a recent **Note** on covenant and mission, issued in June 2009 by our committee and the Committee for Doctrine, had led the conveners to choose the topic of witness. In his presentation, Rabbi Brill noted that “witness” generally means for Jews a public proclamation about a special event or fundamental teaching of Judaism, such as the Sabbath—which is “a witness to Gods’ creation.” Jews generally prefer “education” and “continuity” as terms that define how faith is passed on within families and cultures. Only recently with authors such as Emil Fackenheim and Elie Wiesel, has the idea of witnessing to the faith become operative within Jewish circles, and generally in response to the unprecedented horrors of the Holocaust. Catholics, however, have understood witness as integral to the faith.

Father Kennedy noted that commitment to witnessing, enjoined on all the baptized, means uniting one’s life with Jesus Christ, even sacrificing one’s life as a martyr. Both sides agreed that proselytism, understood as coercion or manipulation, is a corruption of authentic witness to one’s faith. The meeting marked the final dialogue session in which Cardinal Keeler would serve as co-chair and USCCB moderator for Jewish affairs. Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York has now assumed both roles. Tributes were also paid to Cardinal Keeler by longtime dialogue partners, Rabbi Jeffrey Wohlberg of Washington; Rabbi Gilbert S. Rosenthal of Needham, Massachusetts, and NCS staff member; and Judith Hertz of New York. I was also present at the meeting and took the opportunity to thank Cardinal Keeler on behalf of the U.S. bishops for his extensive, wise, and generous service to reconciliation between the Church and the Jewish community. Participants also addressed Middle East issues, particularly Israel’s policy on visas for religious workers. Catholic Near East Director Msgr. Robert Stern expressed particular concern for 147,000 Christians who reside in Israel and the 30,000–40,000 who live in the occupied territories. The forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the Roman synagogue was also mentioned as a hopeful sign that the advances of the past will continue to cement a trusting relationship between the two faiths.

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The recent meeting of the USCCB's Consultation with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations and Rabbinical Council of America focused on the local issue of education tax credits in New York State but also on developments taking place globally in Catholic-Jewish relations. Co-chaired by Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, the consultation

*"Jews generally prefer
"education" and "continuity" as
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cultures."*

met Feb. 22, 2010, at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of New York. Members reported on the Holy Father's visit to the Synagogue of Rome, the **Lineamenta** for the Special Assembly of the Synod of Middle Eastern Bishops (Jan. 19, 2010), and the final communiqué of the Joint Commission of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and the Holy See (Jan. 18, 2010). Concern about property rights for the Christian communities in East Jerusalem and progress in Vatican-Israeli negotiations on the **Fundamental Agreement between the Holy See and the State of Israel** were also taken up in discussion. Finally, participants discussed the previously mentioned June 2009 **Note on Some Ambiguities in Reflections on Covenant and Mission**, which contained a sentence that disturbed our Jewish partners.

The original document **Reflections** (2002) was authored by scholars involved in the USCCB-NCS consultation and evoked theological concerns within the Catholic community. To clarify perceived ambiguities in the earlier statement, the USCCB committees for doctrine and ecumenical and interreligious affairs had stated in their **Note** that "Though Christian participation in interreligious dialogue would not normally include an explicit invitation to baptism and entrance into the Church, the Christian dialogue

partner is always giving witness to the following of Christ, to which all are implicitly invited." Through subsequent correspondence with Jewish partners and further internal discussions, the bishop-chairmen of the two committees, Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport, chair of the Doctrine Committee, and I, joined with USCCB President Cardinal Francis George, Cardinal Keeler, and Bishop William Murphy in reissuing the **Note** without the controversial sentence. The bishops also issued a **Statement of Principles for Catholic-Jewish Dialogue** (October 2009), which said that dialogue "has never been and will never be used by the Catholic Church as a means of proselytism—nor is it intended as a disguised invitation to baptism." In dialogue, Catholics expect to meet Jews who are faithful to their traditions just as we expect Catholic participants to be faithful to the teachings of the Church. I am pleased to report that tensions over this matter appear to have subsided.

Institute for Ecumenical Leadership

In an effort to meet the educational needs of Ecumenical and Interreligious officers, commission members, diocesan leaders, and interested religious and lay people, the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (CADEIO) will offer its annual Institute for Ecumenical Leadership at St. John's University July 25–31, 2010 in Collegeville, Minnesota. The six-day institute will be the second in a series of ecumenical institutes, and will be open to those who have completed the Initial Institute or its equivalent. Although no longer coordinated by the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (SEIA), the institute enjoys the support of our members and some assistance from our staff.

Reformed Christians

The Catholic-Reformed Consultation, co-chaired by Bishop Patrick Cooney and Rev. Richard Mouw of Fuller Theological Seminary, last met Feb. 11–12, 2009, at Fuller Seminary. This dialogue is between USCCB and the four principal Reformed bodies: Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, Christian Reformed Church, and the Reformed Church in America. The next scheduled meeting of the dialogue will take place at Wooded Glen, Indiana, Oct. 6–8, 2010. In the meantime, the drafting committee

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continues to put the finishing touches on its report on the Eucharist. The document in its final form will address the following key areas in ecumenical discussion: action of the Holy Spirit in Eucharistic celebration; remembrance (anamnesis); the presence of Christ in Eucharistic action and species; the nature of the sacrifice, i.e., what (or who) is offered and whether the Eucharist is "offered" by the worshipping assembly; and discipleship as the fruit of Eucharistic celebration. The document will include a statement identifying areas of convergence, mutual appreciations, and an analysis of outstanding theological divergences that can be addressed in future dialogues. The drafting committee will present the document in its final draft for adoption by the members of the dialogue at its next meeting in October 2010. At that point the work of the Seventh Round will conclude in accordance with its mandate. The dialogue looks forward to the publication of its combined report on Baptism and Eucharist in late 2010.

Relations with Muslims

As mentioned in the last report, the West Coast Dialogue between Catholics and Muslims continues to compare how we use scriptural narratives in the development of our respective theological and moral teachings. Particular attention has been paid to the formation of young people in the Catholic and Muslim religions as well as to the theme of migration in the lives of Jesus and Muhammad. The next meeting, slated for May 19–20, 2010, will explore the Christian hagiographical account of the "Seven Sleepers of Ephesus" which has a parallel in Surah 18 of the Qur'ān, "The Companions of the Cave." Presenters will be Father Alexi Smith of Los Angeles and Dr. Musamil Siddiqi of Orange.

The Mid-Atlantic Dialogue between Catholics and Muslims, co-sponsored by the USCCB and the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), last met May 6–7, 2009, at St. Paul's College here in Washington, DC. The dialogue participants continue to work on the statement "Developing a Strategic Plan on Interreligious Education in the United States." The draft under consideration explores the fundamental

principles of interreligious education articulated in a document prepared in the 1990s by the Chicago Coalition for Interreligious Learning as part of an educational exchange between the Council of Islamic Societies of Greater Chicago and the Archdiocese of Chicago. The next meeting of the dialogue will be held in New Brunswick, New Jersey, May 5–6, 2010.

In addition, the anticipated statement of the previous round, "Marriage: Roman Catholic and Sunni Muslim Perspectives," will help them to address with confidence the theological, pastoral and canonical issues related to an interreligious marriage between a Catholic and a Muslim.

The Midwest Dialogue of Catholics and Muslims held its annual fall meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Oct. 25–27, 2009. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed of the Islamic Society of North America and Bishop Francis Reiss, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, on behalf the USCCB. Continuing their discussion of "Religion in the Public Square," the dialogue began with a well-attended public presentation on "Faithful Citizenship: Catholic and Muslim Engagement in Civic Life." The Catholic perspective was presented by Mr. Michael Hovey, coordinator of the Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs of the Archdiocese of Detroit. The Islamic perspective was given by Dr. Irfan Omar, Professor of Islamic Studies at Marquette University. The session continued at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist with two presentations on "The Nature and Dignity of the Human Person: Implications for the Public Square." A Catholic presentation was given by Father Leo Walsh, Associate Director of the SEIA, which was followed a Muslim treatment of the topic by Dr. Zeki Saritoprak of John Carroll University, Cleveland. The participants noted several points of convergence arising from a common experience of both communities, especially in the area of immigration. Other sessions explored the theme "The Dignity of the Family: Catholic and Muslim Family Life and the Public Square—Blessings, Challenges, and Opportunities." Presenters included Dr. Joan Crist, Coordinator, Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs of the Diocese of Gary, Indiana, and professor at Calumet College of St. Joseph, and Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Imam for the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. Members of the dialogue noted many common concerns, including efforts to maintain a faith-filled family life and

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Bishops' Committee

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passing on their religious heritage to the next generation, despite the increasingly secular milieu of American society. Members of the dialogue discussed plans for publishing the results of their conversations and formed a subcommittee to determine a future course of action. They also expressed a desire to collaborate with the members of the West Coast and Mid-Atlantic regional Muslim-Catholic Dialogues. Subsequent conversations with the three Catholic co-chairs on this latter topic have led to a proposed national meeting of all three regional dialogues every four years. We will continue to explore this possibility when our committee meets in plenary. The next meeting of the Midwest Muslim-Catholic Dialogue is scheduled for Oct. 22–23, 2010, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Other Interreligious Relations

Our relationship with the Sikh community is maintained primarily through our contacts with the World Sikh Council–USA and the through Religions for Peace–USA. The next scheduled meeting of the Sikh Consultation is expected to take place in spring 2011.

Despite the consolidation of resources and staff, the committee, through its secretariat continues to maintain relationships with other world religions, including Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs, albeit in a modified form. These relationships are maintained primarily through contacts with staff members and their attendance at various interreligious retreats and conferences. Since these religions are organized primarily on the local level, primary emphasis is given to providing resources to help local dioceses strengthen relationships on the local level. This work is facilitated by our close collaboration with the Faiths in the World Committee of CADEIO and with the Interfaith Relations Commission of the NCCC.

Bishops' Advisory Group on Interreligious Relations

The Advisory Group, made up of 20 or so bishops of the conference, continues to serve as a resource for key topics related to interreligious affairs. Recently,

they were polled about practical considerations that they would like to see included in the aforementioned pastoral guidelines for an interreligious marriage between a Catholic and a Muslim. The staff is currently reviewing the responses, which will prove helpful in the formation of this document.

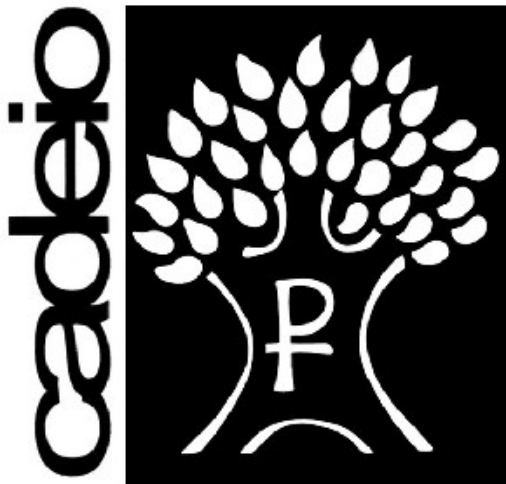
Other News

Our staff continues to work on a catechetical series called “Walking Together,” which serves as an update on developments in ecumenical and interreligious relations. The two installments of these brochures or bulletin inserts scheduled for publication this spring are as follows:

- **Together for Life: Catholics and other Christians in the Pro-Life Movement**
- **A Pope for all Christians?**

An earlier draft of a brochure entitled “When a Catholic Marries a Muslim” was set aside when committee members in consultation with staff members determined that the topic is of such a complex nature that it requires a more substantial and detailed treatment than this format allows. The committee looks forward to reviewing a pastoral guide in a booklet format for Catholic clergy and marriage preparation teams that will treat the topic in its theological and canonical aspects.

Cardinal Francis George traveled to Salt Lake City, where he delivered a talk at Brigham Young University entitled “Catholics and Latter Day Saints: Partners in the Defense of Religious Liberty.” The address, given at the university’s monthly forum that assembles thousands of students and local guests, examined the threats to the freedoms of religious bodies implied in recent court decisions. Accompanied by Father James Massa, His Eminence also met with leadership at the headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS; often referred to as “Mormons”). In recent years, the LDS has become a key ally in our conference’s efforts to defend marriage as the union of one man and one woman and to promote respect for human life and dignity in the public square. Our general secretariat and our SEIA have hosted two delegations of LDS visitors over the past year.



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

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

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The Purposes of CADEIO

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

Upcoming Events

- Orientale Lumen XIV East, June 21–24, 2010
Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, Washington, DC
- Orientale Lumen EuroEast III, July 5–8, 2010
Constantinople (Istanbul), Turkey
- Advanced Institute of Ecumenical Leadership
July 25–30, 2010, Collegetown, MN
- North American Academy of Ecumenists
Sept. 24–26, 2010, Montreal, Canada
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18–25, 2011
- National Workshop on Christian Unity
May 9–12, 2011, Pittsburg, PA

Membership Application

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

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