



# NEWS

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## CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OFFICIAL IS NAMED TO VATICAN COMMITTEE FOR JEWISH DIALOGUE

WASHINGTON--Dr. Eugene Fisher, director of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations, has been named a member of the Vatican's International Liaison Committee for dialogue with the leaders of world Jewry.

The appointment of the 41-year-old Dr. Fisher to the four-person committee came in an April 1 letter to him from Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, president of the Vatican's Secretariat for promoting Christian Unity and the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

The International Liaison Committee is the official link between the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews and the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, which represents all major branches of world Jewry.

Dr. Fisher, who was appointed for a five-year term, is the only American and the only lay person on the Liaison Committee. Other members are Archbishop Marcos McGrath of Panama, Auxiliary Bishop Gerald Mahon of Westminster, England and Dominican Father Bernard Dupuy of the Centre Istina in Paris.

Since its formation in 1971, the Committee has met every

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2/Vatican Committee

eighteen months with its Jewish counterparts to examine matters of common interest. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28-30 of this year in Rome and will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of "Nostra aetate", the Second Vatican Council's declaration on the relationship of the Church to non-Christian religions. That document highlighted the common spiritual patrimony of Christians and Jews and repudiated anti-Semitism.

Dr. Fisher, who holds a doctoral degree in Hebrew studies from New York University, has taught Hebrew Scriptures at St. John's Provincial Seminary in Detroit and at Detroit University. He recently co-authored The Challenge of Shalom for Catholics and Jews, published jointly with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations as a guide for shared efforts by Catholic churches and Reform synagogues in implementing the bishops' 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace.

Fisher and his wife Catherine live in Reston, Virginia.

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