



# NEWS

DATE: February 11, 1986

FROM: William Ryan

O - 202/659-6700

H - 202/686-1824

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NATIONAL CHRISTIAN-JEWISH WORKSHOP TO OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS, ACADEMIC CREDITS

WASHINGTON--The 9th National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations will offer scholarships for those needing financial assistance in order to attend, as well as academic credit for participation.

Such incentives are virtually unique in the field of inter-religious conferences according to Dr. Eugene Fisher, director of the secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and Workshop Chairperson.

The workshop is planned for the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, May 13-16.

According to Dr. Fisher, the format of the workshop is itself innovative. Rather than merely covering various agenda topics, it will systematically trace the entire history of the interrelationships between the two faith communities over the centuries. For each period, including the present and a look into the future, some of the country's leading Jewish and Christian scholars will analyze the significance of major decisions before each group and how decisions affect a group's relations with the other.

/more

NATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

2/Workshop

Following each plenary, participants will divide into discussion groups lead by facilitators and scholars to probe more deeply into the implications for Christian and Jewish life today.

It is this unusual depth of focus, according to Dr. Fisher, which makes possible the offering of academic credit for participation, even though the plenary talks are geared towards a general audience. Those wishing undergraduate or graduate credit (up to three units) will have a special discussion group and be required to submit a "critical reflection paper." The credits are available for teachers and students of religion through the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary (call Dean James Brashler, 301-323-1463 for information).

The scholarships will generally cover travel, lodging, meals, and registration and are designed for religious educators, seminarians, graduate students and clergy and laity interested in becoming actively involved in the dialogue. (For information contact the 9th National Workshop, 5400 Roland Ave., Baltimore, Md., 21210, 301-532-9336).

The National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations is sponsored by the NCCB Secretariat, the National Council of Churches, the American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Congress, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers, the

/more

3/Workshop

Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinical Assembly, the United Synagogue of America, and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

"It is the largest and most widely representative interreligious event in America," said Dr. Fisher.

Plenary speakers will include Dr. Jeremy Cohen of Cornell University; Dr. Michael Cook of Hebrew Union College; Dr. Alice Eckardt, Lehigh University; Dr. John Gager, Princeton University; Rabbi Irving Greenberg, National Jewish Resource Center; Father Daniel Harrington, S.J., of Weston School of Theology; Rabbi David Hartman, Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem; Dr. Arthur Hertzberg of Columbia University; Dr. Martha Himmelfarb, Princeton University; Father John Pawlikowski, O.S.M., Catholic Theological Union, Chicago; Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan, Yale University; Dr. Jakob Petuchowski of Harvard University; and Dr. Paul M. Van Buren of Temple University. Dr. Robert Bergman of the Walters Art Gallery will conduct a tour of some special exhibits with particular interest to dialogue participants.

# # #

X, ISR