



NEWS

FILE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NCCB, ADL JOIN IN PUBLISHING
TEXTS OF CATHOLIC-JEWISH TALKS**

WASHINGTON--Catholic and Jewish groups, in a unique venture anticipating the meeting between Pope John Paul II and Jewish leaders, have joined in co-publishing texts of similar meetings in the past.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith have cooperated in publishing, John Paul II on Jews and Judaism 1979-1986. Pope John Paul and some 200 Jewish leaders are to meet in Miami on September 11, the Pope's first full day in this country on his second pastoral visit to the United States. At the same time, he and the Jewish leaders will attend the opening of a Vatican Judaica Exhibit.

Edited by Dr. Eugene J. Fisher of the NCCB Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations and Rabbi Leon Klenicki of ADL, the volume includes 27 papal texts and nine addresses made to the Pope by Jewish leaders during his various meetings with them in

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Rome and around the world. The book also includes a brief historical introduction by Rabbi Klenicki and a commentary by Dr. Fisher on the major themes of the Pope's talks.

"The material collected in this book," Dr. Fisher said, "will be invaluable for anyone who wishes to assess properly what the Holy Father will say to the Jewish leaders in Miami, and what they will say to him. The U.S. exchange can only be understood within the larger context of the Pope's continuing dialogue with Jewish representatives over the years. Many, I think, will be surprised at how often and how deeply the Pope has addressed this topic, which is so very near to his heart."

Rabbi Klenicki said that "the speeches and comments of Pope John Paul II on Jews and Judaism are a historic step forward in the unique friendship of Jews and Catholics. This friendship of witnessing together to God occurs in a special moment of Jewish history, between the death of the Holocaust and the revival of the State of Israel. John Paul II's words are highly sensitive to this moment."

The volume is available from the USCC Office of Publishing and Promotion Services, 1312 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, at \$3.95 per copy (publication no. 151-2).

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