



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATHOLIC-JEWISH EXCHANGE STUDIES JOINT CONCERN FOR HUMAN PROBLEMS

WASHINGTON--The National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Synagogue Council of America continued the ongoing exchange of their mutual concern for Day/Child Care, the American family, Israel and the Middle East, and values and moral education in public schools at a March 2 meeting at SCA offices in New York.

Bishop William H. Keeler of Harrisburg, NCCB Secretary and Episcopal Moderator for Catholic-Jewish Relations who co-chairs the exchange committee, said the project is to "improve communication and foster collaborative efforts" between bishops and Jewish religious leaders.

Bishop Keeler recalled that Pope John Paul II, in remarks to Jewish leaders during his 1987 pastoral visit to the U.S., expressed satisfaction that the NCCB and the SCA planned a consultation "which should carry forward a dialogue on issues of the greatest interest to the two faith communities."

Exchange Co-chairman Rabbi Jack Bemporad, who heads the SCA Interreligious Affairs Committee, noted the meetings have contributed to "better understanding and respect for differences" and "provide a vehicle for addressing the human problems facing Catholics and Jews."

It was the fourth meeting of the exchange, which began in Washington in October, 1987 with the NCCB as host. A report on

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2/Catholic-Jewish Exchange

the March 2 New York session was issued here by the NCCB.

Members of the SCA Interreligious Affairs Committee, comprised of representatives of the Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform movements of U.S. Judaism, include Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, Great Neck, N.Y.; Rabbi Walter S. Wurzbarger, Laurence, N.Y.; and Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, Queens, N.Y., who have been instrumental in the development of the exchanges.

Dr. Eugene Fisher, Executive Secretary of the NCCB Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations, and Rabbi Henry Michelman, SCA Executive Vice President, reported that the exchanges so far have explored Catholic and Jewish perspectives on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism; confronting ethnic and religious discrimination and anti-Catholicism; issues of religious freedom and human rights regarding Jewish and Christian minorities in various countries; pro-life issues; the State of Israel and the Middle East; Catholic, Jewish and secular education; and communications and media issues.

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