



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARCHBISHOP KEELER WELCOMES CATHOLIC-JEWISH DIALOGUE TO U.S.

WASHINGTON - Archbishop William H. Keeler of Baltimore has issued a welcoming statement to the participants in an upcoming meeting between Vatican representatives and international Jewish groups.

Delegates from the Holy See's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews and from the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) will hold their fourteenth joint meeting in Baltimore from May 4 to 7. It will be the first time that the groups will convene in the Western Hemisphere since their collaboration began in 1970.

Archbishop Keeler is the American Catholic bishops' representative for Catholic-Jewish relations. In welcoming the 50 religious leaders and scholars who will participate in the meeting, he said, "The United States, as the country with the world's largest Jewish community, is an especially fitting venue for this gathering. And as hosts, the bishops of the U.S. take pride in having been the first local body of bishops in the world to establish formal Catholic-Jewish dialogue after the Second Vatican Council.

"I pray that the Lord of all mercies will bless our efforts at building bonds of friendship, trust and mutual understanding," said Archbishop Keeler.

The meeting will take place at St. Mary's Seminary and University. The Seminary, founded in 1791, is the oldest in the United States.

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The Catholic group will be led by Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, President of the Holy See's Commission. World Jewish Congress President Edgar M. Bronfman, present Chair of the IJCIC, will head the Jewish delegation.

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