



# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NEH GRANT WILL HELP FINANCE CATHOLIC-JEWISH POLICY MEETING

WASHINGTON--The National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and the Synagogue Council of America (SCA) have been awarded a grant of \$17,500 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to help finance an ongoing exchange between the Catholic and Jewish communities concerning social justice issues.

The funds will be used in support of this year's segment of a major conference on "Religious Traditions and the Foundations of Social Policy." The meeting will be held at Notre Dame University's Center for Pastoral and Social Ministry, June 3-5. It is being coordinated by the Interreligious Committee of the SCA and the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the NCCB. The first meeting was held at Notre Dame in May, 1979.

The purpose of the conference is to provide Jewish and Catholic scholars and leaders with an opportunity to explore the <sup>traditional</sup> theological bases of their respective communities' involvement in social issues, and to clarify how each group draws on its biblical heritage and religious tradition in confronting current problems.

The papers from the first exchange, which focused on the methodology of social policy formation, will be published this

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summer by Notre Dame University Press under the title "Formation of Social Policy in the Christian and Jewish Traditions." The editors are Dr. Eugene J. Fisher of the NCCB Secretariat and Rabbi Daniel F. Polish, Associate Executive Vice President of the SCA.

This year's discussion will focus on Catholic and Jewish sources for social justice, centering especially on themes of contemporary urgency, such as <sup>Consecration</sup> ~~conscription~~ ethics, health and healing, and peace.

Speakers will include Father John Gurrieri of the NCCB Liturgy Secretariat; Dr. Jules Harlow of the Rabbinical Assembly; Dr. Jonathen Helfand of Brooklyn College; Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman, Associate Professor of Liturgy, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York; Father Edward Kilmartin, S.J., Liturgy Department, University of Notre Dame; Father Dennis Krouse of the University of San Diego.

Also, Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum, Executive Vice President of the SCA; Father John Pawlikowski of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago; Father Kevin Seasoltz, O.S.B., St. Anselm's Abbey, Washington, D.C.; and Rabbi Walter Wurtzberger of the Rabbinical Council of America.

Dr. Fisher said the significance of the ongoing dialogue between the Catholic and Jewish communities concerning social justice issues is accentuated by the fact that this is the first time the National Endowment for the Humanities has granted an award to religious agencies for the purpose of carrying on an academic symposium.

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