



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ANGLICAN-CATHOLIC COMMISSION CONDUCTS FIRST MEETING IN VENICE

WASHINGTON--With a membership including representatives of 12 nations on five continents, the new Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission (ARC-IC II) in its first meeting achieved "a useful exchange of information on the actual state of Anglican/Roman Catholic pastoral relations in many parts of the world," according to a report issued here.

The report observed that "although there are places where little progress (in Anglican/Roman Catholic pastoral relations) has been made, in the majority of cases regular cooperation is now taken for granted."

The Commission, successor to ARC-IC I, said its theological task is examination of "the remaining issues which have divided our two communions."

Established last year by Pope John Paul II and Anglican Archbishop Robert Runcely, the Commission met August 30-September 6 in Venice. The report on the meeting was released here by the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, an arm of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

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2/Anglican-Catholic Commission

Papers presented at the Venice session treated justification by faith, the theology of the Church, the reconciliation of Churches, and recognition of ministries.

For its next meeting, scheduled for 1984, the body commissioned further studies on the Church and salvation to serve as a basis of discussion.

The Commission called corporate prayer an important part of the Venice meeting. The report said that Catholic and Anglican Eucharists were celebrated on alternate days and in these "the Commission was at one in prayer while respecting the sacramental discipline of each Church."

Co-chairmen of ARC-IC II are Anglican Bishop Mark Santer of Kensington, England, and Catholic Bishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Arundel and Brighton, England.

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