



# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BISHOP WILLIAM KEELER APPOINTED  
TO CATHOLIC-ORTHODOX COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON--Bishop William H. Keeler of Harrisburg, Pa., Chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, has been appointed to the International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church.

Bishop Keeler, who succeeds William Cardinal Baum, Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, as a U.S. member of the International Commission, joins the 60-member body as it prepares for its fourth biennial meeting May 29-June 7 in Bari, Italy.

The Commission, the highest ranking and largest of its kind, was established after the 1979 meeting of Pope John Paul II and Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Dimitrios I.

Catholic and Orthodox members of the Commission mutually agreed that the purpose of their dialogue is the "re-establishment of full communion between these two churches.

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This communion, founded on the unity of faith according to the common experience and tradition of the ancient Church, will find its expression in the common celebration of the Holy Eucharist."

Commission members outlined areas of agreement in 1980 and 1982 meetings which reviewed Catholic and Orthodox positions on the relationships between the mystery of the Church, the Eucharist and the Holy Trinity. A 1984 meeting initiated discussion of "Faith Sacraments and Unity" which will be continued at the Bari meeting.

Cardinal Baum, who was named to the Commission when he was Archbishop of Washington, resigned to permit appointment of a U.S. prelate who heads a residential see. Similarly, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, resigned to permit appointment of Friedrich Cardinal Wetter of Munich and Freising.

In another recent change in Commission membership, Salvatore Cardinal Pappalardo of Palermo was appointed to replace George Basil Cardinal Hume of Westminster.

Catholic appointments to the Commission are made by Johannes Cardinal Willebrands, President of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity, who is Co-Chairman of the Commission with Archbishop Stylianos of Australia, representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the ancient see of Constantinople.

Other U.S. members of the Commission are Father Frederick

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McManus, of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.,  
and Father John F. Long, S.J., currently on the staff of the  
Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome.

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