



# NEWS

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FROM: Robert Wonderly

O - 202-659-6700

H - 703-979-6376

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## HOPE FOR EUCHARISTIC COMMUNION IN INTER-CHURCH CONSULTATION

WASHINGTON--Participants in an Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic consultation have expressed the hope that "theological discussions and ever growing fraternal collaboration" will lead to "the full Eucharistic communion" of their churches.

Reporting on the fourth meeting, May 25-26 in New York, of the ongoing consultation between representatives of the two bodies, Father John F. Hotchkin, Executive Director of the secretariat of the Catholic bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said the participants "respect and wish to know better and to share as far as possible in one another's rich spiritual heritage."

Father Hotchkin said that during the New York meeting Father Edward Kilmartin, S.J., of the University of Notre Dame presented a paper on the "scope, aims, spirit and method" that should guide future sessions of the consultation. It will continue with the fifth meeting next December or January. The first meeting was in January, 1978.

Discussion of the various aspects of the liturgical teaching and practice of the Armenian Orthodox, Syrian Orthodox,

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and Roman Catholic churches was led by Armenian Archbishop Tiran Nerosyan of New York; the Rev. Father John Meno, of the Syrian Orthodox Church in Antioch in America, Hackensack, N.J.; and Father Gabriel Duffy, of St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Cheverly, Md.

The meeting was co-chaired by Archbishop Nerosyan and Auxiliary Bishop J. Francis Stafford of Baltimore, representing the Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee. The consultation is cosponsored by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the hierarchies of the Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian, and Syrian churches and the Syrian Church of India.

Other participants in the New York meeting included Rev. Dr. Gabriel A. Abdelsayed, Coptic Orthodox Church in New York and New Jersey, Jersey City; Rev. Father Michael Buttero, Holy Martyrs Armenian Church, Bayside, N.Y.; Rev. Father Karekin Kasparian, Armenian Church of Westchester, Crestwood, N.Y.; Rev. Dr. K. M. Simon, Syrian Orthodox Church of Malabar (India), Ridgefield Park, N.J.; and Rev. Father Arten Ashjian, St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, New York City.

Other Roman Catholic participants included Father J. Peter Sheehan, Associate Director of the NCCB Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Secretariat; Father Robert Taft, S.J., of the University of Notre Dame, and Professor Thomas E. Bird, Queens College, Flushing, N.Y.

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