



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORIENTAL ORTHODOX, CATHOLIC CONSULTATION CITES 'TRIUNE GOD' IN EUCHARIST PAPER

WASHINGTON--Agreement that "the power of the triune God effects the change of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist" has been reached by representatives of the Oriental Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches.

A statement issued here after a Consultation between the two groups noted that "traditionally this has been attributed either to the Word or the Spirit."

The Consultation further agreed that "this divine power must properly is attributed to the Holy Spirit" and that "the consecration of the elements is effected through Christ."

In another statement, the two groups agreed that efforts for peace in Lebanon "are being hindered by the continued presence of Syrian, Israeli and Palestinian armed forces." The statement said the situation is more complex than a struggle between Moslem and Christian communities and has "its roots in the social, economic and cultural factors as well as in religious ones."

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The same statement warned of "imminent danger that certain elements of Islamic law will be incorporated into the constitution and code of laws of Egypt in such a way as to threaten the normal life and even survival of Christians and their churches and communities, violating both the religious and human rights of these communities."

The (June 8-9) Jamaica, N.Y. meeting, ninth in a series over the past five years, was co-sponsored by the hierarchies of the Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian and Syrian Churches, all Oriental Orthodox Churches, and by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB). Co-chairmen were Bishop Paken Varjabedian, representing the Armenian Church of America, and Bishop J. Francis Stafford of Memphis, representing the NCCB Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee.

The agenda included an Armenian Orthodox Divine Liturgy celebrated by Father Michael J. Buttero, of Bayside, N.Y., and a paper on "The Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Orthodox Church by Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, of New York.

Presentations on mixed marriages were by Father Gabriel Duffy, Cheverly, Md., and Father Edward Kilmartin, S.J., of the University of Notre Dame, for the Catholics, and by Father Arten Ashjian, of New York, for the Oriental Orthodox.

Consultation participants expect to develop a statement on mixed marriages to be issued in the future.

The Consultation also proposed for submission to the respective hierarchies "A Resolution on the Present Situation of the Coptic Orthodox Church."

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Other Oriental Orthodox participants included Father Arnak Kasparian, Tenafly, N.J. (Armenian); Father John P. Meno, Hackensack, N.J. (Syrian); and Father Gabriel Abdelsayed, of the Coptic Orthodox Church in New York and New Jersey.

Other Catholic representatives included Professor Thomas E. Bird, New York; Father Sarhad Jammo, Troy, Mich.; Father John F. Long, S.J., Bronx, N.Y.; Father Robert F. Taft, S.J., of the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome; and Father Joseph Witmer, of the NCCB Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs office in Washington. Father Witmer issued a report on the meeting and the statements on the Eucharist and the Middle East.

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