



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATHOLIC CONSULTATION WITH ORIENTAL ORTHODOX IS HELD

JAMAICA, N.Y.--The 11th meeting of the Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation (USA), cosponsored by the Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian, and Syrian Church hierarchies and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, was conducted December 13-14 at Bishop Molloy Seminary here.

The meeting was chaired by Bishop J. Francis Stafford of Memphis, advisor to the NCCB Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs committee.

Father Gabriel Duffy, pastor of St. Joseph Church, Beltsville, Md., presented a paper on "Roman Catholic and Oriental Orthodox Marriages." Among issues discussed were the prenuptial investigation concerning Roman Catholic-Oriental Orthodox marriages and the various possible dispensations relevant to such marriages.

Another paper, "Mixed Marriages: Oriental Orthodox Pastoral Practice," by Father John Meno of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch in America, Hackensack, N.J., and Father Arten Ashjian, pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, New York, also was read and discussed.

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2/Oriental Orthodox

An additional paper by Father Ashjian, "The Orthodox Perception of the Establishing of Eastern Catholic Exarchates in the United States," focused on relations between the Oriental Orthodox churches and their Catholic counterparts in the U.S. and the new relationships resulting from the creation by the Holy See of Eastern Catholic jurisdictions for these communities.

Other participants in the meeting included Archbishops Mar Anthanasius Y. Samuel, Primate, Syrian Orthodox Church of America and Canada, Lodi, N.J.; Rev. Dr. K.M. Simon, Syrian Orthodox Church of Malabar, Ridgefield Park, N.J.; Father Garabed Kochakian, St. Mesrob Armenian Church, Racine, Wis.; Fathers Tsehai Birhanu and Haddis Gedey of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A. Bronx, N.Y.; and Rev. Dr. Gabriel A. Abdelsayed, Rector, Coptic Orthodox Church in New York and New Jersey, Jersey City, N.J.

Other Roman Catholic participants were Prof. Thomas E. Bird, Queens College, Flushing, N.Y.; Fathers Aelred Cody, O.S.B., and Aidan Kavanagh, O.S.B., St. Meinrad, Ind.; Father Robert F. Taft, S.J., Boston; and Father Joseph Witmer of the NCCB Ecumenical and Religious Affairs secretariat, Washington, D.C.

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