



NEWS

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FROM: Carl Eifert

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATHOLIC ORIENTAL ORTHODOX MEETING APPROVES DOCUMENT

NEW YORK--The 13th meeting of the Oriental Orthodox/Roman Catholic Consultation (USA) has approved a document intended to help clergy understand the history and the North American presence of the Oriental Orthodox churches.

The meeting, held in New York last month, was co-sponsored by the Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian and Syrian hierarchies and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Co-chairing were Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, representing the Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs Committee of the NCCB, and Chorepiscopus John P. Meno of the Syrian Church.

Consultation members discussed papers, including "Chrismation (anointing) in the Oriental Orthodox Tradition," by the Rev. Garabed D. Kochakian of the Armenian Church, and "The Earliest Liturgies of Christian Baptism," by Father Aidan Kavanagh, O.S.B., of Yale University.

Besides approving the history document, the members considered issuing "Guideline on Mixed Marriages Between Oriental Orthodox Christians and Roman Catholics" and other documents on relations between the churches nationally and internationally.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

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Other participants in the meeting were the Most Rev. Mar Athanasius Y. Samuel (Syrian Church); the Most Rev. Yesehaq, the Rev. Tsehai Birhanu, and the Rev. Haddis Gedey (Ethiopian Church). Roman Catholic participants included Prof. Thomas E. Bird, the Rev. Aelred Cody, O.S.B., the Rev. Gabriel Duffy, the Rev. Sarhad Hermiz Jammo, the Rev. John R. Long, S.J., the Rev. Robert F. Taft, S.J., the Rev. Joseph Thomas, and the Rev. Joseph W. Witmer.

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