



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**'MINISTRY' IS PROJECTED AS NEXT TOPIC FOR
SOUTHERN BAPTIST, CATHOLIC 'CONVERSATIONS'**

WASHINGTON--Ministry, defined as "stewardship in light of the Gospel" and as the Church "serving God's people in their living out Christian faith," will be projected as the topic for the next set of Southern Baptist/Roman Catholic Conversations to open March 2-4, 1990 in Durham, N.C.

The seven Roman Catholic and six Southern Baptist participants in the discussion will be asked to determine what the members of the two faiths can positively affirm together about (1) human dignity understood in Christian tradition, (2) the sacredness of all human life, (3) the sacredness of human sexuality, (4) Christian family values, and (5) Christian stewardship of all creation.

Father Thaddeus Horgan, S.A., Associate Director of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said that "the overall objective of this conversation is to say in a Christian way, and together, how these values are to be upheld."

Participants will also be asked to consider, he continued, ways in which to get the results of the discussion "into our local congregations."

The last set of Southern Baptist/Roman Catholic conversations was completed with publication in June of an Agreed Statement titled "To Understand Each Other," a summary of discussion occurring over the past two decades whose purpose was "to make one another better aware of what each believed." The document contains study guides, suggestions for local

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conversations, and a glossary of Baptist and Roman Catholic terms.

Preparations for the set of Conversations to begin next March were made by Dr. Gary Leazer, Director, and Dr. William Gordon, Jr., Associate Director, Interfaith Witness Department, both of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, and Bishop James D. Niedergeses of Nashville, and Father Horgan, at a meeting last month in the new NCCB offices here. Father Horgan and Dr. Gordon are staff to the Conversations and Dr. Leazer is an observer.

Subsequent meetings in the Conversations are scheduled for February 22-25, 1991 and in 1992 and 1993.

Roman Catholic participants in the upcoming Conversations include Bishop Niedergese; Father Robert Dalton, Vice President, Glenmary Home Missioners, Cincinnati; Ms. Jean-Marie Heisberger, Director, Institute for Pastoral Life, Kansas City, Mo.; Father William Norvel, S.S.J., African-American pastor of Most Pure Heart of Mary Church, Mobile; Father Carroll Stuhlmuehler, C.P., Professor of Scripture, Chicago Theological Union; Sister Yolanda Tarango, C.C.V.I, Co-Director, Hospitality House, San Antonio, the first Hispanic American to participate in a dialogue; and Father Jude Weisenbeck, S.D.S., pastor, St. Patrick's Church, Nashville.

Southern Baptist participants include Dr. James Leo Garrett, Professor of Theology, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; Dr. William L. Hendricks, Professor of Christian Theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; Dr. Emmanuel McCall, Director, Black Church Extension Division, Home Mission Board; Louis Moore, Consultant, Christian Life Commission, Nashville; Dr. William Richardson, Area Director, Brazil and the Carribbean, Foreign Mission Board, Brasilia, Brazil; and Ms. Bobbie Sorrill, Birmingham.

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