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# UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Office of Public Affairs

1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 (202) 659-6700

National Catholic Office for Information

November, 1983

TO: MEMBERS OF THE NEWS MEDIA

FROM: THE NCCB/USCC OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RE: THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' MEETING, NOVEMBER 14-17, AT  
THE CAPITAL HILTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The following is an outline of general arrangements for the 1983 fall meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and United States Catholic Conference.

## FACILITIES

### News Center

The news center is located on the mezzanine floor of the Capital Hilton Hotel. Members of the press may register and pick up documentation in Foyer 2, beginning at 11 a.m. on Sunday, November 13. The telephone number for Foyer 2 is 737-2628. Reporters who wish to call in advance for credentials are invited to use that number on the weekend and throughout the following week. (Until then, all calls should be directed to the number for the NCCB/USCC Office of Public Affairs at 659-6700). The South American Room is the press room and will be open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. News releases and other materials are distributed in the press room. Telephones, reference books and a telecopier are on hand for the working press. Messenger service to Western Union is available by calling 624-0266. News conferences and briefings will be held in the Federal Room.

## TELEPHONES

Please make all long distance calls collect or on your credit card.

### NEWS CONFERENCES

News conferences will be held after most general sessions. Panels of bishops will be available for questioning at this time. Information will be posted on other news conferences or briefings that may take place or on any changes in the general schedule.

### GENERAL MEETING ROOM

General sessions will be open to the press. News media representatives accredited for admission will receive badges indicating this. It will be necessary for you to have your badge with you when you enter the meeting room. Because of space limitations, we reserve the right to limit the number of representatives of any one organization admitted to the meeting at any one time.

### BROADCAST, PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The general rule of thumb for television camerapersons and still photographers covering the meeting is that they carry out their functions as unobtrusively as possible, with no disruption to the conduct of business by the bishops.

While the meeting is in general session, traffic is confined largely to the peripheral areas at both sides and to the rear of the bishops and to either side of the speakers' platform.

Traffic in the interior aisles of the general meeting room is prohibited.

Additional lighting in the meeting room for television and motion picture purposes may be supplied by media organizations--BUT POOL LIGHTS MAY BE USED ONLY DURING ACTUAL TAPING AND IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH LIGHTING DOES NOT IMPAIR THE VISION OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS TO THE POINT THEY ARE INCAPABLE OF RECOGNIZING OTHER PARTICIPANTS, OR IN ANY OTHER MANNER CAUSE DISCOMFORT TO THE BISHOPS, OBSERVERS, STAFF, AND OTHERS IN THE ROOM. Spot and flash lighting is generally restricted to key areas of exchange (speakers' platform, floor microphones, etc.) and for brief periods only.

Patching capabilities will be provided in the general meeting room and news briefing room.

RECEPTION

There will be a reception for bishops and media personnel from 8 to 10 p.m., Tuesday, November 15, in the Embassy Room, lobby floor, near the entrance to Twigs. You are cordially invited.

STAFF

Staff members of the NCCB/USCC Public Affairs operation include Bill Ryan, Russ Shaw, Bob Wonderly, Delores Clements, Sue Fuller, Sue Grescoviak, and Fr. Joe Fenton. Msgr. John Foley of Philadelphia and Dr. David Byers of NCCB will prepare written summaries of the discussions which will be distributed as soon as possible.

Thank you.



# NEWS

DATE: October 28, 1983

FROM: William Ryan

O - 202/659-6700

H - 202/686-1824

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## BISHOPS' AGENDA INCLUDES HISPANIC MINISTRY PASTORAL, MANY OTHER ITEMS

WASHINGTON--A Pastoral Statement on Hispanic Ministry, a Liturgy document on prayer and worship, a report from the Committee on Canonical Affairs on implementation of the new Code of Canon Law, revised Conference goals and objectives, the election of a president and vice president, and a proposal to initiate a pastoral letter on women in society and the church are on the agenda for the annual meeting of the U.S. Catholic hierarchy here next month.

Most of the nation's nearly 300 Catholic bishops will participate in the four-day meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and United States Catholic Conference, at the Capital Hilton Hotel, November 14-17.

The meeting will begin on Monday, November 14, with a concelebrated Mass. This will be followed by an address by Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul and Minneapolis, President of NCCB/USCC. The bishops will concelebrate Mass during the week and prayer from the liturgy of the hours will accompany each day's deliberations.

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## 2/Bishops' Agenda

The statement on Hispanic Ministry is entitled "The Hispanic Presence: Challenge and Commitment" will be presented by the Ad Hoc Committee for Hispanic Affairs chaired by Archbishop Robert F. Sanchez of Santa Fe. A four-member subcommittee chaired by Bishop Ricardo Ramirez, C.S.B., of Las Cruces, New Mexico prepared the text, the first draft of which was sent to the bishops in July. A second draft based on reaction to the first is the one which will be considered in November.

The statement articulates the meaning and dimensions of the Hispanic Catholic presence in the United States; calls for a new beginning in a variety of areas in the Church's ministry; and expresses a commitment to minister with Hispanics in the future.

The 7,500-word statement, which calls upon "our entire Church at this moment of grace to recognize that the Hispanic community among us is a special blessing from God," requires the approval of two-thirds of the Conference membership.

The NCCB Joint Statement on Prayer and Worship, entitled "The Church at Prayer, A Holy Temple of the Lord," is the work of the NCCB Liturgy Committee whose chairman is Bishop John S. Cummins of Oakland, Calif. Archbishop Oscar Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala. chaired the subcommittee which drafted the text. The bishops authorized the preparation of the statement at their meeting one year ago to commemorate the 20th anniversary, on December 4, 1983, of the promulgation of Sacrosanctum Concilium, the historic document of the

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### 3/Bishops' Agenda

Second Vatican Council which brought about the most sweeping changes in the liturgy that the Catholic Church had seen in centuries.

"This 'liturgical program' continues to be our program for the Church in the United States of America, for its growth and vitality, for its participation in the great work of the Redemption and reconciliation accomplished in Jesus Christ," the statement says.

The bishops will be called upon by their Committee on Canonical Affairs, chaired by Bishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Pittsburgh, to respond to several matters raised by the Church's new Code of Canon Law which goes into effect on November 27, the first Sunday of Advent. Principal among these items is the question of Holy Days of Obligation. Catholics, in addition to their participation at Mass on all Sundays, are required to attend Mass on Holy Days, which currently number six in this country.

The revised Code of Canon Law lists 10 Holy Days of Obligation for the Church as a whole. The Code also states that a Conference of Bishops, with the prior approval of the Holy See, can abolish certain holy days of obligation or transfer them to a Sunday. The number of Holy Days has always varied from one country to another but if no action is taken by the bishops before November 27, the 10 holy days listed in the Canon will become the norm for the Church in the United States.

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#### 4/Bishops' Agenda

The Committee on Canonical Affairs, acting on the recommendation of the Committee on Pastoral Research and Practice and the Liturgy Committee, is submitting the following recommendations to the bishops in November:

--Removal of the precept in the Code to assist at the Eucharist on the following solemnities: St. Joseph, Saints Peter and Paul, Mary Mother of God, and Assumption.

--Transfer observance of the following solemnities to the appropriate Sundays: Epiphany, Ascension, Corpus Christi.

--Retain the precept on the following solemnities: Christmas, Immaculate Conception, and All Saints.

The bishops will vote on each holy day separately. Each will require a two-thirds vote and subsequent confirmation by the Holy See.

In other matters, the bishops will be asked by the Ad Hoc Committee on Conference-Wide Priorities to consider revised goals and objectives for their Conference and to approve conference priorities for 1985 through 1987.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Conference-Wide Priorities, chaired by Bishop James W. Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, Vice President of the Conference, was established by the bishops in 1982 and asked to carry out three tasks: to recommend priorities for 1985 and beyond; to recommend an on-going priority-setting process for the conference; and to recommend organization and management changes necessary for an effective process.

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## 5/Bishops' Agenda

The bishops will also elect a new president and vice president to succeed Archbishop Roach and Bishop Malone who will complete a three-year term of office at the conclusion of the meeting. They will also elect chairmen and members of various committees.

Nominees for the office of President, listed alphabetically, are: Archbishop James A. Hickey of Washington, Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P. of Louisville, Bishop Bernard F. Law of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., Bishop Roger M. Mahony of Stockton, Calif., Bishop Malone, Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis, Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, Archbishop Edmund C. Szoka of Detroit, Archbishop Weakland of Milwaukee, and Archbishop John F. Whealon of Hartford.

These 10 prelates were the ones most frequently mentioned in a recent mail ballot sent to each member of the Catholic hierarchy and who agreed to accept the nomination.

The president will be elected by a simple majority vote. If a majority is not received on the first or second ballot, then the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the second ballot will be the sole candidates on the third and final ballot. The vice president will be chosen in the same way from the remaining nine nominees.

The bishops Ad Hoc Committee on Women in Society and the Church, chaired by Bishop Joseph L. Imesch of Joliet, is proposing that the bishops initiate the writing of a pastoral letter on women. The Ad Hoc Committee believes "there are persuasive, convincing reasons for the publication of such a document at this time."

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## 6/Bishops' Agenda

The Committee has noted recent initiatives to reach out to those women who feel rejected or alienated from the Church, and alluded to pastoral letters by individual bishops and groups of bishops which "have further demonstrated a sensitivity and willingness to minister to women who feel called to respond in service to the Church and to share in ecclesial mission."

The Ad Hoc Committee is sponsoring a workshop for bishops and representatives of 11 U.S. women's organizations, which will be held November 12-13, the weekend prior to the meeting.

Format of the workshop will include major presentations, on the topics as "Women in Scripture," "Origins in Ministry," and "Patriarchy in Society and the Church," followed by group discussions. Organizations which have been invited to send representatives to the workshop are the Daughters of Isabella, National Association of Religious Women, Catholic Daughters of America, Las Hermanas, Women's Auxiliary of the Knights of St. Peter Claver, the National Black Sisters Conference, the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Advisory Council, Secretariat for the NCCB Committee on the Laity, the National Council of Catholic Women, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Women's Ordination Conference.

On Wednesday evening, November 16, at 5:00 p.m. at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the bishops will concelebrate a Mass marking the current Holy Year.

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