



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATHOLIC, EPISCOPAL BISHOPS PLAN PILGRIMAGE TO CANTERBURY AND ROME

WASHINGTON--A pilgrimage of Catholic and Episcopal Bishops to Canterbury and Rome will take place November 3-9, 1994. The Bishops will visit the shrines and centers of the two Churches, pray for the unity of these Churches and the whole Christian community, exchange the ecumenical priorities and experiences of the centers of these Churches and of Episcopalians and Catholics in the United States, and explore issues of ecumenical formation and evangelism.

The pilgrimage was announced by Most Reverend John J. Snyder, Catholic Bishop of St. Augustine, Florida, and Episcopal Bishop Frank T. Griswold of Chicago, co-chairs of the Anglican Roman Catholic Dialogue in the United States (ARC/USA). Theme of the pilgrimage is "Ecumenical Formation in the Service of the Gospel."

Five bishops from each Church will participate in the pilgrimage. In addition to prayers in the cathedrals of England and the basilicas of Rome, the bishops will be received by the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, and by Pope John Paul II. In England the group will be hosted by the Church of England. There will be the possibility of discussing the development of the international Anglican Roman Catholic Dialogue with leaders of that dialogue and talking with the leadership of the Anglican Consultative Council. The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity will host the pilgrimage in Rome. There the bishops will visit various offices of the Roman Curia including those for

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ecumenical formation and religious communities. They will also visit the North American College. Bishops participating in the pilgrimage have not been named as yet.

The idea for the pilgrimage came from a discussion between Archbishop William H. Keeler of Baltimore, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), and Bishop Edmund Browning, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. It will be sponsored by the Standing Committee on Ecumenical Relations of the Episcopal Church and the NCCB Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

These two Churches have been in dialogue in this country since 1965, as have the Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church worldwide. A task force of diocesan ecumenical officers, Episcopal and Catholic, have worked for more than twenty years exploring and promoting the unity of the two Churches in the local context. Many dioceses of both Churches have covenants to nurture the journey toward full communion.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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