

# NCCB president

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Commission for Religious Relations with Jews and the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, with representatives of the Vatican Secretariat of State also attending.

Eugene Fisher, executive secretary of the NCCB Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations, said he and Bishop William H. Keeler of Harrisburg, Pa., chairman of the NCCB Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, also may be present.

In the letter, Pope John Paul said he wrote in order to thank Archbishop May for sending him a book containing the texts of the pope's statements on the subject of Jews and Judaism. The book is entitled *Pope John Paul II on Jews and Judaism, 1979-1986*.

The pope said he has blessed and encouraged the initiatives of all those who

"foster the relationships of mutual esteem and friendship and promote the Jewish-Christian dialogue in the appropriate places and with due theological competence and historical objectivity."

"The more we try to be faithful in loving obedience to the God of the covenant, the creator and savior ... the deeper will be the roots of our dialogue and the more abundant its results," he wrote.

The pope referred to Jews as "our elder brothers in the faith in Abraham." He said the Holocaust shows where "lack of faith in God and a contempt for man created in his image can lead."

"With our hearts filled with this unyielding hope, we Christians approach with immense respect the terrifying experience of the extermination, the 'Shoah,' suffered by the Jews during the Second World War, and we seek to grasp its most authentic, specific and universal meaning," he said.

"It is precisely by reason of this terrible experience that the nation of Israel, her sufferings and her Holocaust are today before the eyes of the church, of all peoples

and of all nations, as a warning, a witness and a silent cry," the pope said.

Jewish leaders have protested the fact that the Vatican has not established full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The book Archbishop May sent to the pontiff was a joint project of the NCCB Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. It was published in June in anticipation of the pope's scheduled meeting with U.S. Jewish leaders in September.

In the letter, Pope John Paul called the book "the result of cooperation between Jews and Catholics in America, which is a further source of satisfaction."

Rabbi Marc T. Tanenbaum, international affairs director for the American Jewish

Committee, welcomed the letter and the opportunity for discussions at the Aug. 31-Sept. 1 meetings.

"I think it's a good letter," the rabbi said Aug. 20 in a telephone interview with National Catholic News Service. "In fact it's an excellent letter. It's a genuine effort to respond to the concerns many of us in the Jewish community have felt. It begins to help clear the air."

He also said Vatican officials have informed Jewish leaders that the pope hopes the Jewish delegation Sept. 1 can be small enough to facilitate dialogue. The pope reportedly made it known he "wanted a real conversation ... man to man, heart to heart. We welcome that very much," Rabbi Tanenbaum added.

## St. Bernard's Institute adds to faculty

St. Bernard's Institute will add three new faculty members to its instructional staff this fall, to accommodate recent growth in the numbers of students who are seeking graduate courses in theology and ministry.

Dr. Roslyn A. Karaban has accepted a full-time appointment at the institute. She will teach "Women In Ministry Issues," "Self-Discernment In Ministry," and "Introduction to Pastoral Counseling" within the department of pastoral-ministry studies. Dr. Karaban, formerly of Bangalore, India, holds a master of divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and a doctorate in pastoral counseling from Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA.

Sister Estelle Martin, RSM, will teach "Christian Architecture: A Faith Experience,"

a course exploring architecture as a reflection of the theology of the times. A diocesan consultant on art and environment, Sister Martin holds master's degrees from the University of Illinois and the University of Notre Dame.

Father Alexander Bradshaw, a graduate of Oxford University and the Gregorian University in Rome, will teach an Old Testament course entitled "The Covenant Motif" on Wednesday evenings.

Monroe County residents may register for fall courses on August 24 and 25 at the institute, 1100 S. Goodman Street, Rochester. Residents of counties other than Monroe or those interested in extension courses offered in Syracuse and Horseheads may register by mail. Call (716) 371-1320, ext. 290, for information.

## Genesis

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recalled. "It was a hard year for the adults, mostly. They found it difficult to let go of the past to form the future. Kids are more adventurous."

Yet, Bahr considered the students who constituted the junior high's first seventh and eighth grades more than mere adventurers. In his view, the rainbow of attitudes they brought from their respective elementary schools equipped them well for the task they faced.

The students from St. Augustine's, he explained, were extremely sensitive to others' feelings and emotions. Energy and enthusiasm were hallmarks of children from St. Anthony of Padua. Good Counsel's native sons and daughters contributed a sense of stability. Non-parishioners from surrounding neighborhoods added dashes of individuality. "The mix was just a good one," Bahr said.

Walters pointed to the diversity of cultures and the excellence of the academic programs at the junior high as enriching experiences for her daughter, who is entering the eighth grade

this year. "I certainly think that because kids are no longer restricted to one parish, they opened even more to other people and their ethnic backgrounds," she said. "That would not have happened otherwise."

The school community must now concentrate on reaching out to the surrounding community, Walters believes. "Two years ago, when I began with the school board, people did not know we existed," she said. "It will be to our favor in the long run if we can let (people) know what we're all about."

All appearances to date point to a solid start for Genesis Catholic Junior High School in 1987/88. Walter and 13 other members of the school's new board will meet for the first time next month. Once classes begin, members of the student council will be charged with choosing a new uniform, logo and motto to represent Genesis Catholic Junior High.

With the addition of students from Holy Apostles/Holy Family School, enrollment for the coming year is up from 59 to 86 and continues rising. Added numbers mean that the cost to educate such student is down from \$1,491 to \$1,306, according to Father Sirrianni. "That's still very expensive, but better than last year," he said.

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