

World & Nation



Metropolitan Museum of Art/NC News

CLOSING THE MARIAN YEAR — Papal ceremonies officially closing the Marian Year will be available via satellite for broadcast worldwide, the Vatican announced. Pope John Paul II will celebrate the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on August 15, the feast of the Assumption, closing 14 months of prayer in honor of Mary. The Mass will be filmed by Italian state television and broadcast via Eurovision throughout Western Europe. Funding for the satellite uplink is to be provided by the Knights of Columbus. Mary's assumption is depicted in this detail of a painting by Bergognone, Ambrogio di Stephano.

Anglican bishops endorse ARCIC

By Robert Nowell

Canterbury, England (NC) — The work of the first Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) has received an overwhelming endorsement from the world's Anglican bishops.

In its resolution expressing the Anglican Communion's official response to ARCIC's final report, the Lambeth Conference recognized two agreed statements on the Eucharist and on ministry and ordination as "consonant in substance with the faith of Anglicans."

Among other things, the report recommended recognizing the pope as universal primate with authority in matters of faith as he currently holds.

It also cited that dialogue participants agreed "on the essentials of the eucharistic faith with regard to the sacramental presence of Christ and of the sacrificial dimension of the Eucharist, and on the nature and purpose of priesthood, ordination and apostolic succession."

Bishop George Carey of Bath and Wells, England, who proposed the resolution, said he hoped the entire conference would share the

view that "the Holy Spirit of God is leading us slowly but definitely toward agreement and reconciliation."

The resolution, passed August 2, welcomed the commission's two agreed statements on authority "as a firm basis for the direction and agenda of the continuing dialogue on authority."

The resolution also recognized the "serious responsibility" placed on Anglican bishops "to weigh the possible implications" of ordaining women bishops, since ordination of women was to be discussed by the second Anglican-Catholic commission. The previous day, the conference voted a compromise resolution urging Anglican provinces to respect each others' decisions on whether or not to ordain women bishops.

The Catholic Church does not allow ordination of women.

Father Kevin McDonald, an official of the Vatican's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, has said the Catholic Church is working on a detailed response to the ARCIC I report. He said the response should be released later this year.

South Africa urges pope to plan short visit

Pretoria, South Africa (NC) — South Africa, pointedly excluded from Pope John Paul II's visit to southern African nations this September, is trying to convince the pontiff to make a brief stop to celebrate Mass at Jan Smuts international airport in Johannesburg.

On August 4, South Africa's foreign minister, Rolof Botha, said a short visit to South Africa would help relieve traffic congestion expected when South African Catholics travel to see the pontiff during his September 14-16 visit to Lesotho, a tiny country surrounded by South Africa.

Botha said that he was surprised and puzzled about South Africa's exclusion from the pope's nine-day visit to the region. The exclusion of his country from the five-nation pa-

pal itinerary was puzzling, the foreign minister said, in light of Pope John Paul's reception of South African President Pieter W. Botha at the Vatican in 1984.

In his statement, the foreign minister said that in 1984 the government was asked by the southern African bishops' conference what its attitude would be toward a possible visit to the country by Pope John Paul.

Botha said that the pope would be welcomed in accord with international protocol and that he thought an invitation for a visit was imminent.

The foreign minister also said that when the Vatican announced Pope John Paul's southern African trip he was surprised that "South Africa would specifically be excluded."

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