

# Vatican and Lutheran Body Name Ecumenical Study Group

Vatican City — (NC) — The Holy See and the Lutheran World Federation have set up a joint working group to explore the possibilities of future contacts between the two communions.

The 14-member body is the first in which the Roman Catholic Church is dealing with another Church at a world level. The announcement of its establishment was made simultaneously (July 5) by the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity here and by Lutheran World Federation headquarters in Geneva.

The announcement came one day before the start of the first formal theological discussions held in Baltimore between representatives of the U.S. Bishops' Commission for Ecumenical Affairs and of the U.S. National Lutheran Council. Two of the participants in the Baltimore conversations were nam-

ed to the new international working group: Msgr. William W. Baum of Washington, Secretary of the Bishop's Commission on Ecumenism, and the Rev. Warren A. Quanbeck, professor of Systematic Theology at Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

Earlier this year, the Unity Secretariat named representatives to a joint committee for consultations with the World Council of Churches, which while composed of over 100 Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant Churches is not entitled to speak for any one of them. The establishment of the Catholic-Lutheran working body was seen as setting a precedent with representatives of other Churches.

The Lutheran World Federation is a free association of Lutheran Churches. While it has no power to legislate for them or to interfere with their full autonomy, it can act as their agent in matters they assign to it. There are more than 80 million Lutherans in the world, and 53 million of them belong to churches which are members of the LWF.

The new joint working group's activity will be limited to studying the possibilities of future contacts and to collaboration in study and action between the Federation and the Roman Catholic Church, and to making recommendations to authorities of the respective churches.

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## Says Indifference Fans Persecution

LONDON, Ont.—(NC)—The "absolute indifference of the free world" has helped ease the way for stepped up religious persecution in the Soviet Union, according to a new study published here.

The document charges that the current Soviet "antireligious campaign of terror" is being carried out "relentlessly" and aims at "the total and final annihilation of all religious institutions in the near future."

The study, a 12-page booklet entitled "Religious Persecution in the U.S.S.R.," is the work of the Very Rev. Dimitry Konstantinow, pastor of St. Mary's Russian Orthodox church in Maynard, Mass. He is a former professor of literature and journalism at the University of Leningrad who left the Soviet Union in 1944 and became an Orthodox priest in Germany.

The booklet was published by S.B.O.N.R., an organization of anti-communist Russian exiles. An introductory note says it is based on reports in the Soviet press and communications by Christians in the U.S.S.R. to the Orthodox Patriarchs of Constantinople and Antioch and the secretary general of the United Nations.

The report says that, finding religion thriving in the Soviet Union during and after World War II, the communists turned first to antireligious propaganda and then, in late 1959 and early 1960, to "more decisive measures" against it.

Among the forms which current religious persecution takes, the document lists the following:

—Monasteries and churches are closed "on all kinds of pretexts." By the beginning of 1964 their number was only half that of 1958.

—Missionary work and the teaching of the Scriptures to children are forbidden and sermons are subject to censorship.

—Religious services outside offi-

cially recognized places of worship are forbidden.

—Religious organizations are forbidden to perform any charitable or social work.

—Children and young people aged 3 to 18 are forbidden to attend religious services or to receive Communion. Children over the age of one-and-a-half are not to be baptized.

—Threats and social and economic pressure are used on individual believers to force them to give up religion.

The document says many monks, priests and bishops have been imprisoned or placed in labor camps. There is presently a special camp for clergy and Religious in the steppes near the Sea of Aral with about 30,000 inmates.



NEWLY ARRIVED in the Diocese of Raleigh is the Reverend Joseph Maule, OSFS, (Oblate of St. Francis de Sales). Ordained in 1943, Father Maule has been a high school teacher throughout most of his priesthood, and was most recently stationed at St. Peter's, Onancock, Virginia. Presently he is in residence at St. Lawrence's Church, Asheville.



CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION AT WALLACE



BISHOP VINCENT S. WATERS dedicates the Church of the Transfiguration the evening of June 29. The church, which seats 220, was designed by architect Julian Altobellis. The pastor is Father Robert McMahon.

### Official Appointments

The following clergy appointments made by His Excellency, Bishop Waters, are announced through the Diocesan Chancery:

Effective Thursday, July 15, 1965:

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Lawrence C. Newman, V.F., Pastor of the Church of the Holy Child, Jacksonville, is appointed Vicar Forane of the New Bern Deanery.

The Reverend Francis J. Gorham is appointed Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Hickory.

The Reverend James J. Noonan is appointed first Pastor of the newly established parish of St. Vincent, Charlotte.

The Reverend Thomas M. McAvoy is appointed Vice-Rector of St. John Vianney Pre-Seminary, Asheville.

The Reverend Albert J. Todd is appointed Pastor of St. Mildred Parish, Swansboro.

The Reverend Thomas P. Hadden is appointed Pastor of the combined parishes of St. Paul and St. Joseph, New Bern, which will now be known as St. Paul Parish. St. Paul's will be the parish Church, with St. Joseph's a Chapel within the parish.

The Reverend William N. Pharr is appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Monroe-Sacred Heart Parish, Wadesboro.

The Reverend Edward J. Sheridan, Co-ordinator of William Gaston Memorial High School, is also appointed Assistant Administrator of the new St. Paul Parish and St. Joseph Chapel, New Bern.

Gerald L. Lewis  
Vice-Chancellor