

# catechism update

Fall 2002

## INTERNATIONAL CATECHETICAL CONGRESS TO TAKE PLACE IN ROME

An International Catechetical Congress will be held in Rome from October 8 to 11. This gathering has been called to mark the tenth anniversary of the release of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (June, 1992) and the fifth anniversary of the release of the *General Directory for Catechesis* (October, 1997). Invitations to the International Congress were extended jointly by the Prefects of the Congregations sponsoring the gathering: Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith and Darío Cardinal Castrillón Hoyos of the Congregation for the Clergy. Those invited include the chairs of the Committees on Catechesis and Committees on Doctrine from episcopal conferences throughout the world, those involved in the development of either text, and members of the International Council for Catechesis. Those invited from the United States include Cardinal Bernard Law, who was one of the twelve cardinals appointed by Pope John Paul II to form a commission to oversee the development of the *Catechism*, Archbishop William Levada, a member of the editorial committee for the *Catechism*, Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, chair of the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the *Catechism*, Bishop Donald Wuerl, the chair of the USCCB Committee on Education and its Sub Committee on Catechesis, Bishop Donald Trautman, the chair of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, and Father John Pollard, a member of the International Council for Catechesis.

The program for the International Congress is scheduled to be composed of various speakers from around the world who have been asked to address particular applications of the *Catechism* and the *General Directory* in the catechetical work of the Church. Bishop Wuerl has been asked to make one of the presentations. On October 8, the first day of the International Congress, Bishop Wuerl will speak to particular applications of the *Catechism* here in the United States.

It is not known if any proceedings of the International Congress will be

Most Rev. Daniel Buechlein, OSB  
Chairman

Most Rev. William Levada  
Most Rev. Alfred Hughes  
Most Rev. Robert Banks  
Most Rev. Donald Wuerl  
Most Rev. Daniel DiNardo

Consultant:  
Rev. John Pollard



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available for publication. That would be an additional benefit to result from the gathering. However, even if no proceedings are published, the very act of gathering to mark the anniversaries of the release of these two texts reminds us of the great gift that they have been and will continue to be to the Church.

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## Update on the National Adult Catechism...

The consultation on the draft *National Adult Catechism* is scheduled to conclude at the end of next month, October 31, 2002. Consultation responses received to date have been very positive about the draft text. Following the conclusion of the consultation period, the responses will be collected and collated. Then, the bishops who serve on the Editorial Oversight Board will meet during the final week of January to review the consultation responses and decide what revisions to the text might be necessary or desirable.

The expectation remains solid that a final draft will be presented to the bishops for approval during the course of 2003. If the text receives the necessary two-thirds approval of the bishops, it will then be forwarded to the Congregation for the Clergy with a request for a *recognitio*, a step that is necessary before the bishops can release the *National Adult Catechism* for use in this country.

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### CONSULTATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 31, 2002

The consultation on the *National Adult Catechism* will conclude on October 31, 2002. There is no guarantee that responses received after that date will be able to be processed for the consideration of the bishops overseeing the text's development.

### DRAFT COPIES AVAILABLE

A limited number of copies of the draft *National Adult Catechism* are available for use by bishops and/or dioceses still in the process of reviewing the text. To receive a copy or copies, please contact Brian Doyle in the Catechism Division of the USCCB Department of Education: 202-541-3032 (phone) or 202-541-3055 (fax).