

The Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) met from 10 – 18 July at the Duncan Centre, Delray Beach, Florida, under the co-chairmanship of the Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (USA), and the Most Reverend Alexander J. Brunett, Archbishop of Seattle. New members included Bishop Brian Farrell LC, the new Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and a new Anglican Co-Secretary, the Reverend Canon Gregory K. Cameron, who has succeeded the Right Reverend David Hamid as Director of Ecumenical Affairs at the Anglican Communion Office.

The Commission worked in the main on the text of a document on the place of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life and doctrine of the Church, which it hopes to complete at its next meeting for publication in the course of 2004. Lengthy consideration was given to the treatment of an historical overview of devotion to Mary in the lives of the two traditions, together with a consideration of the theology of Invocation to the Saints. The main focus of remaining discussion at the Seattle meeting will be the authority of the two Marian dogmas of the Assumption and the Immaculate Conception.

The Commission also heard an extensive report on the work of the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission, which had met in Dromantine in Northern Ireland last month.

The Commission extended its profound gratitude to Dom Emmanuel Lanne OSB, who has assisted the Commission as a consultant on matters relating to Early Church History, and the Eastern churches during the drafting process, and to other consultants who have advised on the revision of proposed texts.

During the meeting, the Commission members were guests at a dinner hosted by Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, and were honoured to meet Bishops Leo Frade and James Ottley of the Anglican Diocese of South East Florida, together with Msgr Arthur Kennedy, Ecumenical Adviser to the United States Catholic Bishops' Conference. The Commission were grateful to the Revd Stephen and Mrs Fregeau and all the staff at the Duncan Center for the warmth of their welcome.

The Commission noted with sadness the deaths of former members, Bishop Alan Clarke (Roman Catholic Co-Chair from the Commission's inception until the publication of the Final Report in 1981), Bishop Edward Knapp-Fisher and Fr Edward Yarnold SJ during the last year.

ARCIC will next meet from 28th January to 2nd February 2004 in Seattle.