



**37th Meeting of the Bishops of the Church in America  
8-11 February 2010  
Montreal, Canada**

Bishops of the Church in America meet in Montreal

11 February 2010

(Ottawa - CCCB)... Bishops from Canada, the United States and Latin America gathered in Montreal, 8-11 February, for the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Meeting of the Bishops of the Church in America. The discussions focused on the situations and challenges facing priests today throughout North and Latin America. This theme was chosen because of the current Year for Priests, declared last June by the Holy Father.

More than 20 delegates took part in the Montreal meeting, including Bishops and senior staff of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and the Episcopal Council of Latin America (CELAM). The CELAM delegates also included representatives from several Episcopal Conferences of South and Central America which are not currently on the CELAM Executive.

Of particular concern at this meeting was the tragic situation of the people and the Church in Haiti, after the recent earthquake. They remain daily in the prayers of the Bishops. Each Episcopal Conference and the religious communities of every country have responded with humanitarian aid and are now involved with the Haitians in cooperating in the rebuilding of the society and the Church in Haiti. An agreement was reached at this meeting to coordinate these efforts through the General Secretariats of the CCCB, USCCB and CELAM.

The meeting is part of a series of informal gatherings previously known as the Interamerican Meeting of Bishops, held every few years since 1967. At the 1999 meeting in Cuba, however, in view of the Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in America* earlier that year by Pope John Paul II, the Bishops decided to change the name to the *Meeting of the Bishops of the Church in America*, to emphasize the unity of the Church in the Western hemisphere.

The now annual gatherings have also discussed the family (San Antonio, Texas - 2004), the media (Bogotá, Colombia - 2005), the laity (Toronto - 2006), new evangelization and the growing secularism of society (Huntington, New York - 2008) and the personal encounter with Jesus Christ in evangelization and catechesis (Buenos Aires - 2009).

## **List of participants at the 2010 meeting**

### **Representatives of CELAM**

- Most Reverend Raymundo Damasceno Assis, Archbishop of Aparecida, Brazil, President of CELAM
- Most Reverend Andrés Stanovnik, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Corrientes, Argentina, Second Vice President of CELAM
- Most Reverend José Leopoldo González González, Auxiliary Bishop of Guadalajara, Mexico, General Secretary of CELAM
- Most Reverend Emilio Aranguren Echeverría, Bishop of Holguín, Cuba, Chairman of the CELAM Finance Committee
- Most Reverend Geraldo Lyrio Rocha, Archbishop of Mariana, Brazil, representative of the Brazilian Episcopal Conference
- Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, S.D.B., Metropolitan Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, representative of the Honduran Episcopal Conference
- Most Reverend Rubén González Medina, Bishop of Caguas, Puerto Rico, representative of the Puerto Rican Episcopal Conference
- Most Reverend Ubaldo Ramón Santana Sequera, F.M.I., Archbishop of Maracaibo, Venezuela, representative of the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference

### **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

- Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, Illinois, President
- Most Reverend Gerald F. Kicanas, Bishop of Tucson, Arizona, Vice President
- Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of San Antonio, Texas, Chairman of the Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America
- Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J., Bishop of Youngstown, Ohio, Secretary
- Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop of Paterson, New Jersey, Chairman of the Committee on Divine Worship

### **Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops**

- Most Reverend Pierre Morissette, Bishop of Saint-Jérôme, Quebec, President
- Most Reverend Richard Smith, Archbishop of Edmonton, Alberta, Vice President
- Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher, Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall, Ontario, Co-Treasurer
- Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., Bishop of Corner Brook and Labrador, Newfoundland, Co-Treasurer
- Msgr Mario Paquette, P.H., General Secretary
- Msgr Patrick Powers, P.H., General Secretary designate