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NEWS ITEM

ARCIC on Mary

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The following text has been sent out by the Anglican Communion News Service

"The Anglican - Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) met from 28 January - 3 February at the Palisades Retreat Center, Seattle, under the co-chairmanship of the Most Revd Alexander J. Brunett, Archbishop of Seattle, and the Most Revd Peter Carnley, Archbishop of Perth and Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia. The Commission is extremely grateful for the generous hospitality of Archbishop Alex Brunett, who welcomed the Commission to his Archdiocese and diocesan Retreat Center. A special welcome was extended to Archbishop Peter Carnley, who had been appointed as Anglican Co-Chair following the resignation of the Most Revd Frank Griswold in November 2003.

The Commission completed work on the text of the Seattle Statement, "Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ", which it is now submitting to the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and to the Archbishop of Canterbury together with the Anglican Consultative Council. The Commission hopes that the sponsoring bodies will be able to move towards the publication of the document in due course.

The publication of "Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ" will bring to completion the second phase of work of the Anglican - Roman Catholic International Commission, which was mandated in 1982 by Pope John Paul II and Archbishop Robert Runcie. In the course of the last twenty years, the Commission has published four agreed statements - Salvation and the Church (1987), The Church as Communion (1991), Life in Christ (1994) and The Gift of Authority (1999). In 1999, the Commission began work on a consideration of the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life and doctrine of the Church.

The Church's understanding of Mary has been a subject of deep controversy between Anglicans and Roman Catholics. Discussion at Seattle has placed the Roman Catholic dogmas of the Immaculate Conception and Assumption of Mary, and how they may relate to any future restoration of Communion, within the broader context of Scriptural and

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theological reflection on Mary. Following its established methodology, the Commission has sought to go behind entrenched positions, and to articulate a common approach to the subject under discussion."

Comment:

The Marian dogmas are where the errors of the Church of Rome reach their present pinnacle. Despite what is said by ACNS the normal ARCIC process has been to bend over backwards to accommodate Rome and then find that the Vatican (normally 5 years later) reiterates all its old errors.