Churches Agree On Trinity

By KATHIE DIBELL

BALTIMORE, July 7 (AP) (AP)—Catholic and Lutheran theologians have affirmed together—for the first time in this country—a common definition of the Holy Trinity found in the Nicene Creed.

The theologians released this joint statement after an historic two-day formal discussion on the Nicene Creed in a move toward Christian unity.

"We confess in common the Nicene faith and therefore hold that the son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made man, suffered, died and rose again for our salvation, is true God; that he is from God the Father as Son, and therefore other than the father; that the Godhead is one and undivided; and that the Holy Spirit, together with the Father and the Son, is to be worshipped and glorified."

FIRST TIME

Rev. John Courtney Murray, Catholic of Woodstock College said at a news conference it was the first time in this country that representatives of the two churches had made a common confession of faith. The Germans, however, began joint talks shortly after World War II, Murray said, and "we're still in the position of having to catch up."

The talks centered on discussion of the 1640-year-old Nicene Creed, which is a part of the liturgy of both churches.

The scholars said they had found areas of agreement during the session, but were aware of the differences separating the churches.

"With great realism, we enter into these things expectant," said Rev. Joseph A. Sittler, Lutheran, of the University of Chicago.

"One plows ahead and confronts these difficulties," Sittler said, "taking it above the coffee and doughnuts level."

They agreed that the session, the first of a series, was perhaps most valuable in establishing lines of communication.