

Chapter V
Faiths in the World Committee

Philip Latronico

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Purpose

- To develop programs and resources to assist diocesan officers in furthering the work of interreligious understanding and harmony.
- To stimulate a network and exchange of ideas, experiences, and resources among diocesan officers and scholars of religions.
- To cooperate with the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in the promotion of interreligious relations and dialogue.
- To represent the NADEO members at interreligious events and meetings of organizations and other agencies promoting interreligious relations.

History

1982 Organizational meeting in September 1982 at St. Paul's College, Washington, DC. Attending were the Rev. John McDonnell (NADEO Vice President), Rev. Msgr. Royale Vadakin, Rev. Msgr. Joseph Gremillion, Professor John Grim, Professor William Cenker, Professor John Borelli, and the Rev. John F. Hotchkin, Executive Secretary, BCEIA.

- Committee has met every year from 1982 to the present over a Fall weekend to plan various programs and materials assisting diocesan officers in conducting interreligious relations. From 1982 - 1992, the committee met in Washington, DC, drawing upon scholars and diocesan officers primarily on the East Coast; from 1993 - present the committee has met in Chicago with the exception of 1998 when it met in conjunction with its Buddhist-Catholic Retreat-Dialogue at Franciscan Retreat, Malibu, California.

1983 Established in 1983 as an *ad hoc* committee by the NADEO Executive Committee under the leadership of the Rev. Alex J. Brunett, NADEO President, to have a two track membership (diocesan officers and scholars of religious traditions); Rev. Msgr. Royale Vadakin and Dr. John Borelli serve as the first co-chairs. Committee begins work on a handbook for interreligious relations and plans for a plenary session and a series of seminars for the NADEO program at the National Workshop on Christian Unity, beginning in 1985, the twentieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's *Nostra Aetate*.

- Dr. Borelli is named NADEO observer to the Task Force on Christian-Muslim Relations of the National Council of Churches of Christ and begins attending meetings in 1983. There will be a NADEO observer invited to all future meetings of the Task Force, and later the Committee on Christian-Muslim Relations until the NCCC re-organization of all interfaith work into a single commission in the mid-1990s.

- 1985 Committee sponsors NADEO plenary session at the NWCU in San Antonio in 1985: the Rev. Thomas Berry, “The Interreligious Imperative of the Late Twentieth Century: Twenty Years after *Nostra Aetate*.” NADEO Board establishes Faiths in the World Committee as a NADEO standing committee.
- During the 1985 Workshop on Christian Unity in San Antonio, Bishop William H. Keeler, BCEIA Chairman, requests the committee’s advice and assistance with a proposal for a staff position at the NCCB primarily for interreligious relations.
- 1987 With a position funded and staffed at the NCCB for the Fall 1987 meeting, Faiths in the World is asked to continue its advisory role to the BCEIA on interreligious relations while pursuing its primary function of supporting diocesan officers in their ministry of interreligious relations.
- 1989 Three committee members participate in the first session of special consultation at Collegeville, MN, “Confessing Christian Faith in a Pluralistic Society.” In 1995, two committee members return for the second session which produced a publication under the title of the consultation.
- 1990 Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, BCEIA Chairman, attends 1990 annual Fall meeting, and three committee members (Professors Roger J. Corless, John Grim, and G. John Renard) form a panel of presentations on the Holy Spirit and interreligious relations for the North American Academy of Ecumenists meeting concurrently in Washington, DC.
- 1993 Committee meets in 1993 while sponsoring a three-part working group during the 100th anniversary celebration of the 1893 Parliament of Religions in Chicago. Attending this special meeting were: Bishop Joseph J. Gerry, BCEIA Episcopal Moderator for Interreligious Relations, Archbishop Francesco Gioia, the Holy See’s delegate at the celebration and editor of the documents of the Pontifical Council of Interreligious Dialogue, and Bishop Placido Rodriguez, Liaison for the Archdiocese of Chicago to the parliament planning committee. Committee members presenting at the parliament were: Professor John Renard, the Rev. Michael McGarry, and Professor Donald Mitchell.
- 1994 Committee is reorganized for its 1994 meeting in Chicago drawing upon scholars and ecumenical officers primarily in the Midwest for meetings. The Rev. Thomas Baima and Sr. Joan Chatfield serve as co-chairs.
- 1996 Committee members and other diocesan officers attend as specially designated NADEO observers at “The Gethsemani Encounter,” 1996.

- 1997 Twenty-two attend the first Interreligious Leadership Institute, held in Chicago in July 1997, planned by the committee in conjunction with the BCEIA staff. Bishop Michael Fitzgerald, Secretary, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, and Dr. John Borelli, NCCB Director for Interreligious Relations, are staff for the first institute.
- 1998 Fifty-seven Buddhists and Catholics attend a Buddhist-Catholic retreat/dialogue jointly sponsored and planned by the committee and the L.A. Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue in Malibu, California.

Workshops, Seminars, and Programs

- 1985 “Native American Religious Identity,” National Workshop on Christian Unity, San Antonio
- 1986 “Islam in America: Practical Guides for the Ecumenical Officer,” NWCUC, Hartford
- 1987 “The Hindu Presence in the United States,” NWCUC, Atlanta
- 1988 “Contemplation and Action: Buddhist Treasures,” NWCUC, Portland
- 1989 “Building the Earth Community: Models for Interreligious Dialogue on the Environment,” NWCUC, Indianapolis
- 1990 “The Sacredness of Life: Interreligious Contributions to Ecumenical Dialogue,” NWCUC, Pittsburgh
- 1991 “Interreligious Dialogue and Peace: Focus on Christian-Muslim Relations,” NWCUC, St. Louis
- 1992 “Developing Contemplative Prayer through Buddhist-Christian Dialogue,” NWCUC, Denver
- 1993 “Organizing for Interreligious Relations and Dialogue: the Ecumenical Officer and Interreligious Relations,” NWCUC, Milwaukee
- A three part working group during the 1993 Parliament of Religions, Chicago:
- “What do Christians and Jews have to say to one another?”
- “What do Christians and Muslims have to say to one another?”
- “What do Christians and Buddhists have to say to one another?”

- 1994 “The 1993 Ecumenical Directory and Interreligious Relations,” NWCUC, Providence
- 1996 “Out of the Monastery and into the World—the Experience of Buddhist and Christian Contemplative Practice,” NWCUC, Richmond
- A four part working group at the 1996 international conference of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, DePaul University, Chicago:
- “International Perspectives on Buddhist-Christian Relations”
 “Examples of Local Buddhist-Christian Dialogues in the United States”
 “Special Example of Buddhist-Christian Relations—Monastic Dialogue”
 “The Next Step in Buddhist-Christian Relations?”
- 1997 “When Cults Come Calling,” NWCUC, Sacramento
- 1998 Buddhist-Christian Retreat/Dialogue, Franciscan Retreat, Malibu
- 1999 “How do Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations Influence Each Other,” NWCUC, Rochester

Publications

- 1985 “Handbook for Interreligious Dialogue,” the fifth section of the original NADEO Handbook for Ecumenical Officers.
- 1988 *Handbook for Interreligious Dialogue*, second, revised and expanded edition, edited by John Borelli. Morristown, NJ: Silver Burdett & Ginn, 1988. Copies available from the NCCB Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Committee Members

- Co-Chairpersons: The Rev. Francis X. (Butch) Mazur (Diocese of Buffalo)
 Sr. Joan Chatfield, M.M. (Maryknoll Sisters Center)
- Secretary: The Rev. Philip Latronico (Archdiocese of Newark)
- Members: The Rev. Thomas Baima (Archdiocese of Chicago
 & University of St. Mary of the Lake)
 Professor Ewert Cousins (Fordham University)
 Dr. Michael Kerze (University of California—Los Angeles
 & Archdiocese of Los Angeles)
 The Rev. Dr. Leo D. Lefebure (Fordham University)

The Rev. Dr. Rafael Luévano (Diocese of Orange
& Chapman College)

Ms. Judith Longdin (Archdiocese of Milwaukee)

The Rev. Dr. Elias Mallon, S.A. (Graymoor Ecumenical
& Interreligious Institute)

Professor Donald Mitchell (Purdue University)

The Rev. Dr. John Pawlikowski, O.S.M. (The Catholic Theological
Union at Chicago)

Mr. David Wilson (Diocese of Lafayette)

Consultant: Dr. John Borelli, Director for Interreligious Relations, Secretariat for
Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

Past Members: The Rev. Vivian Ben Lima (Archdiocese of Los Angeles)
The Most Rev. Alex J. Brunett, Archbishop of Seattle
Professor William Cenkner (The Catholic University of America)
Professor Roger J. Corless (Duke University)
Professor John L. Esposito (Georgetown University)
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Gremillion (University of Notre Dame)
Professor John A. Grim (Bucknell University)
The Rev. John F. Hotchkin, Executive Director, Secretariat for
Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs
The Rev. John J. Keane, S.A. (Archdiocese of San Francisco)
The Rev. Raymond F. Kennedy, C.S.S.P. (Diocese of Stockton)
The Rev. John H. McDonnell (Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston)
The Rev. Michael McGarry, C.S.P. (St. Paul's College)
The Rev. Francis M. McGrath (Diocese of Trenton)
The Rev. Thomas Murphy (Archdiocese of Indianapolis)
The Rev. Rivers Patout (Diocese of Galveston-Houston)
The Rev. Msgr. John Radano (Archdiocese of Newark)
Professor G. John Renard (St. Louis University)
Professor Mary Evelyn Tucker-Grim (Bucknell University)
The Rev. Msgr. Royale M. Vadakin (Archdiocese of Los Angeles)

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Recommended Resources and Periodicals

Interreligious Dialogue: The Official Teaching of the Catholic Church (1963-1995). Edited by Francesco Gioia. Boston. Pauline Books and Media. 1997.

Pro Dialogo. Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, 00120 Vatican City. Appears usually three times a year with occasional double issues. \$27 (airmail). [No. 1 (1966) - No. 69 (1988), *Bulletin*, Secretariat for Non Christians; No. 70 (1989) - No. 84 (1993), *Bulletin*, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue; No. 85 (1994) - Current Issue: No. 101 (1999).

DIM/MID International Bulletin. American Edition of Commissions pour le dialogue interreligieux monastique and Monastic Interreligious Dialogue. Published two times a year. Write MID Bulletin, Abbey of Gethsemani, 3642 Monks Road, Trappist, KY 40051-6102.

Encounter. Documents for Muslim-Christian Understanding. Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, Viale di Trastevere, 89 00153 Rome, Italy. 10 issues a year. \$27 (air mail). PISAI also publishes an annual volume, *Islamochristiana*, which includes articles and reports of dialogues around the world.

Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. Jointly published by the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, and the Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Selly Oak. Two issues a year. \$78.00. Current issue: vol. 10, no 2 (July 1999).

Current Dialogue. Office of Inter-Religious Relations, World Council of Churches, 150 Route de Ferney, P. O. Box 2100, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland. Current issue: 33 (July 1999).

Newsletter. Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, c/o CSSR Executive Office, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN 46393-6493. \$28. Two issues of the newsletter, the CSSR Bulletin, and the annual journal *Buddhist-Christian Studies*.

Hindu-Christian Studies Bulletin. Annual, published by Society for Hindu-Christian Studies. Contact: Professor Harold Coward, Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, P. O. Box 3045, Victoria V8V 3P4, Canada.

Handbook for Interreligious Dialogue, second, revised and expanded edition, edited by John Borelli. Morristown, NJ: Silver Burdett & Ginn, 1988. Copies available from the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, 3211 Fourth Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20017-1194.

Confessing Christian Faith in a Pluralistic Society. Collegeville, MN: Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, 1995. Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, P. O. Box 6188 Collegeville, MN 56321-6188.

Bridging Our Faiths. The Interreligious Council of San Diego. New York: Paulist Press, 1997.

How to Be a Perfect Stranger. A Guide to Etiquette in Other People's Religious Ceremonies. Edited by Arthur J. Magida. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 1996.

How to Be a Perfect Stranger, Vol. 2. A Guide to Etiquette in Other People's Religious Ceremonies. Edited by Stuart M. Matlins and Arthur J. Magida. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 1997.

Additional Resources for Interreligious Dialogue (Reports of interreligious dialogues and specially prepared resources for dialogues can be found in the listings above under **Publications** and **Recommended References and Periodicals**. In addition to those, the following books and articles relating particularly to interreligious dialogue are also recommended.)

Arinze, Francis Cardinal. "Interreligious Relations in a Pluralistic Society," *Origins* 25, 14 (September 21, 1995): 217, 219ff.

_____. "Catholic Universities/Interreligious Dialogue." *Origins* 27, 35 (February 19, 1998): 592ff.

Borelli, John. "This Rapid Period of Development in Catholic-Muslim Relations," *Origins* 21, 33 (January 23, 1992): 535ff.

_____. "Who is God for a Hindu, Buddhist or Muslim?" *Origins* 22, 44 (April 15, 1993): 749, 751ff.

Brunett, Bishop Alexander. "Message to U. S. Buddhists," *Origins* 26, 42 (April 10, 1997): 695-6.

Burns, J. Patout, ed. *War and Its Discontents. Pacifism and Quietism in the Abraham Traditions*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 1996. This conference was a follow-up to the conference listed before under "The Ethics of Warfare."

_____. "The Ethics of Warfare: Muslim, Jewish and Christian Religious Traditions. Conference Report. *The Journal of Religious Pluralism*, II (1992): 83ff. This conference took place at the beginning of the Gulf War in 1990 and the BCEIA chairman presided over the proceedings.

Catholic-Buddhist Dialogue. "Two World Religions Examine Points of Shared Concern," *Origins* 25, 14 (September 21, 1995): 222ff. A report from the first international Buddhist-Catholic dialogue sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

de Cherge, Christian-Marie. "Seven Trappist Monks in Algeria Murdered." *Origins* 26, 4 (June 13, 1996): 49, 51ff. Includes the letter of condolence from the American Muslim Council.

Fitzgerald, Bishop Michael. "The Spirituality of Interreligious Dialogue," *Origins* 28, 36 (February 25, 1999): 631ff.

Gerry, Bishop Joseph. "What the Purpose of Catholic-Muslim Dialogue Is and Is Not," *Origins* 21, 33 (January 23, 1992): 538-9.

Hatcher, John. "Inculturation: Faith Among Native American Catholics," *Origins* 26, 18 (October 17, 1996): 284ff.

Interreligious Dialogue. *The Living Light* (Winter 1995), Department of Education, USCC. This special issue contains articles on various aspects of interreligious relations by Bishop Gerry, Donald Mitchell, John Berthrong, Joseph Wong, Tom Ryan, John Borelli, and Stephen Duffy.

Keeler, William Cardinal. "How Mary Holds Muslims and Christians in Conversation," *Origins* 25, 36 (February 29, 1996): 610ff.

Los Angeles Interreligious Group. "Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue: An Early Journey," *Origins* 20, 44 (April 11, 1991): 713, 715ff. A report from the Los Angeles Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue.

Mallon, Elias. "The Challenges in Catholic-Muslim Dialogue." *Origins* 21, 33 (January 23, 1992): 531ff.

Mitchell, Donald W. and James Wiseman, O.S.B. *The Gethsemani Encounter*. New York: Continuum, 1997

Muslim-Christian Research Group. *The Challenge of the Scriptures. The Bible and the Qur'_n*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989.

Pelotte, Bishop Donald. "The Gospel and the Fate of Indigenous Peoples," *Origins* 27, 27 (December 18, 1997): 445, 447ff. See also in same issue address by Chief Harry Lafond.

Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. *Guidelines for Dialogue between Christians and Muslims*. Prepared by Maurice Borrmans. New York: Paulist Press, 1990.

Synod for Asia. "Message to the People of God," *Origins* 28, 2 (May 28, 1998): 17, 19ff. For other materials from the Synod for Asia see *Origins* 27, 45 & 46.

U. S. Bishops' Meeting/Native Americans. "1992: Time for Remembering, Reconciling and Recommitting Ourselves as a People," *Origins* 21, 31 (January 9, 1992): 493, 495ff.

U. S. Muslim and Catholic Leaders. "Interreligious Statement Addresses Cairo Issues," *Origins* 24, 14 (September 15, 1994): 250ff.

