

**“Building Bridges of Hope:
Success Stories and Strategies for Inter-faith Action”**

Conference Co-sponsored by U.S. Embassy to the Holy See
and Pontifical Gregorian University

Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Location: Pontifical Gregorian University, Aula Magna
Rome, Italy

Format: Day-long conference with opening and closing events, panel discussions on three themes (conflict prevention, environmental protection, and equitable development), and working lunch with keynote speaker from the White House. Every panel will include a representative of each “Abrahamic” religion: Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Participants will share their religion’s perspective on the panel theme and, where possible, provide concrete examples of related inter-religious collaboration. Guided by moderator, panelists will then exchange views and take audience questions.

Conference Schedule

- 8:15 a.m. Conference Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 a.m. **Opening Invocation** –
Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata, Secretary, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue
- 9:10 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks**, to include description of order of events. – *Fr. Rector François-Xavier Dumortier, S.J., Rector, Pontifical Gregorian University*
- 9:20 a.m. **Opening of Conference**, to include reasons for bringing together different faith communities to discuss these topics. –
H.E. Miguel H. Díaz, U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See
- 9:30 a.m. Panel: **Equitable and Ethical Development** (1.5 hours)
(each panelist speaks for 20 minutes, and 30 minutes for questions)
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Break
- 11:15 a.m. Panel: **Protecting the Environment** (1.5 hours)
(each panelist speaks for 20 minutes, and 30 minutes for questions)
- 12:45 p.m. Conclusion of Panel, break
- 1:00 p.m. **Lunch Begins**
- 1:45 p.m. **Keynote Speech:** (Theme TBD)
Dr. Joshua DuBois, Director, White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- 2:15 p.m. **Lunch Concludes**
- 2:30 p.m. Panel: **Preventing Conflict** (1.5 hours)
(each panelist speaks for 20 minutes, and 30 minutes for questions)
- 4:00 p.m. Closing: **Maintaining Momentum in Interfaith Action**
(15 minutes)
Dr. Marian Diaz, Professor of Theology

Confirmed Panelists and Moderators

(C = Christian, M = Muslim, J = Jewish)

Equitable and Ethical Development

- (C) *Ms. Katherine Marshall*, Senior Fellow, Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.
<http://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/people/katherine-marshall>; (Senior Advisor for the World Bank; years of development work experience; Executive Director of the World Faiths Development Dialogue)
- (M) *Mr. Adnan Durrani*, CEO and Chief Halal Officer, American Halal Co., Inc., Connecticut
<http://www.saffronroadfood.com/articles/?page=1&id=75> (entrepreneur and investment professional, often lectures on Islam and remains active in facilitating Interfaith forums in New York City and Connecticut area synagogues, churches, and mosques)
- (J) *Dr. Ed Kessler*, Co-founder/Director, The Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths, Cambridge University
<http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/cmjr/staff/kessler.php>; (prominent interfaith figure in British academia specializing in Jewish-Christian and Jewish-Muslim relations)

Moderator: Pietro Cocco, Focolare Movement

Caring for the Environment

- (C) *Fr. Joseph Rozansky*, Director, Franciscan Office for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation
- (M) *Mr. Fazlun M. Khalid*, Founder/Director of the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Science, England
<http://ifees.org.uk/>; (recognized as the foremost expert on ecology from the Islamic perspective)
- (J) *Rabbi Warren G. Stone*, Founding Chair of the Central Conference of American Rabbis' Committee on the Environment, Maryland
http://www.templemanuelmd.org/aboutus/staff/rabbi_stone/; (renowned for his leadership on religion and the environment)

Moderator: Roberto Fontolan, Communion and Liberation Movement

Preventing Conflicts

- (C) *Bishop Abuna Elias Chacour*, Archbishop of Akko, Haifa, Nazareth and Galilee of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elias_Chacour; (promotes peace between Arabs and Israelis; many peace awards)
- (M) *Ms. Zeenat Rahman*, Director of Policy, Interfaith Youth Core, Chicago
<http://www.ifyc.org>; (frequently travels abroad to facilitate youth led interfaith initiatives and to speak about the importance of interfaith work)
- (J) *Dr. Hillel Levine*, Founding President, International Center for Conciliation, Boston <http://www.centerforconciliation.org/Home.html>;
(frequent lecturer; promotes "history without hate")

Moderator: Mario Giro, Sant'Egidio Movement