

Revisionism, Proselytization, Intolerance

Most people welcome interfaith dialogue, but there are also those who contest it and who are opposed to it. In effect, the relationship between religions has been and is being practiced in different ways. To organize inter-religious meetings is not unproblematic.

To open the road for a dialogue with other religions requires effort, even though many times this road passes through values common to the three monotheistic religions, in some camps there are religious leaders who distort the value of dialogue and who choose intolerance over tolerance.

This is why we in the issue examine this galaxy of intolerance, to understand why these people choose the security of a strong identity rather than the difficulty of dialogue.

Bishop Richard Williamson

Bishop Richard Williamson of the Society of Saint Pius X denied that 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust and claimed that not one single Jew was killed in Nazi gas chambers. His declaration ignited one of the highest crisis between Jewish organization and Roman Catholic Church.

<http://www.newser.com/story/79852/bishops-holocaust-denial-boosts-uk-churchs-fame.html>

<http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=5204>

The Society of Saint Pius X and its relation to the Second Vatican Council

The publication of Summorum Pontificum, which brought back the Tridentine Rite, and the lifting of the excommunication of the bishops of the Society of St. Pius X, who oppose the Second Vatican Council. Even the Catholic press started to debate the reintegration of SSPX and about its theology.

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/features/f0000522.shtml>

Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek

In January 2010, shortly before the Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz, Polish Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek declared that Jews exploit the Holocaust for their own ends and that their claims of his country's longstanding anti-Semitism are fabricated.

<http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=5254>

<http://www.ejpress.org/article/41942>

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Christian evangelicalism

Evangelicalism is not a recent movement in the Christian world, but recently Tristan Sturm and Jason Dittmer of UCLA University published 'Mapping the End of Times' which showed that US evangelicalism has become an important social and political force in modern America and an export item to the Middle East. The study offers useful insights on the intersection between politics and religion. This comprehensive study discusses evangelicalism in its different forms.

http://www.ashgatepublishing.com/pdf/SamplePages/Mapping_the_End_Times_Intro.pdf

Tristan Sturm also published an article in Haaretz, discussing specifically some aspects of this practice in Israel.

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1116943.html>

Christian revision of the Shoah

A strong tendency in "Western" Christian religious culture has been to make revisions to the Jewish dimension of the Shoah.

<http://zeek.forward.com/articles/116292/>

The Jewish Origin and Tradition of Jesus

On 29 March 2010 James Carroll wrote an article recalling Jewish tradition and the legacy of Jesus. There is a tendency to avoid and cancel the Jewish dimension of Jesus as if he was not born and educated as a Jew.

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/03/29/preach_peace_in_holy_week?mode=PF

Israeli Ambassador to Holy See asks Israelis and Jews to be more open to dialogue

In January 2010 the Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See, Mordechai Lewy, called on Israelis and Jews to be more open to dialogue with Christians. He made his invitation in columns in the January and February issues of the Italian Jewish monthly magazine 'Pagine Ebraiche,' (Jewish Pages) and his ideas have been echoed in the daily Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano.

<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/briefs/cns/20100120.htm#head9>

<http://www.thejc.com/blogpost/no-dialogue-today-thank-you>

Father Raniero Cantalamessa's sermon on Good Friday, 2 April 2010

Father Raniero Cantalamessa, a Franciscan priest whose official title is Preacher of the Pontifical Household, compared negative opinions of the catholic church to anti-Semitism during his Good Friday sermon. The parallel provoked outrage by comparing criticism of Benedict XVI over recent sex abuse allegations to the "collective violence" suffered by the Jews.

<http://www.jpost.com/JewishWorld/JewishNews/Article.aspx?id=172498>



Related articles on the respect of difference

Some articles on the respect of religious or cultural differences:

Coexistence is more difficult if we do not respect religion

<http://www.resetdoc.org/story/00000021115>

Catholics and Jews have learned to disagree

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/features/f0000519.shtml>

Jews and Muslims in UK

<http://www.thejc.com/print/29264>

About the Swiss Referendum on Minarets

<http://www.resetdoc.org/story/00000001541>

Pius XII

The debate on Pius XII is perpetually open, and the relations between Jews and the Roman Catholic Church are difficult over the larger moral question. Since the end of 2009 several pieces of news concerning Pius XII have been announced:

Archives concerning Pius XII will only be opened in 2015

Some 16 million documents on Pope Pius XII's pontificate from 1939-1958 may be catalogued and ready for researchers in five years, the Prefect of the Vatican Secret Archives, Bishop Sergio Pagano declared in March 2010.

<http://www.ejpress.org/article/42411>

In anticipation of the complete opening of the Vatican archives of Pius XII's pontificate, the Holy See decided to make available in pdf format the 'Actes et documents' of the period 1939-1945 requested by Paul VI in 1964 and compiled between 1965 and 1981 by the Jesuit historians Pierre Blet, Angelo Martini, Burkhardt Schneider and Robert A. Graham.

http://www.vatican.va/archive/actes/index_en.htm

Three experts on Pius XII

Robert Ventresca, a historian at King's University College at the University of Western Ontario. He is working on a biography of Pius XII titled Soldier of Christ: The Political Life of Pope Pius XII.

<http://network.nationalpost.com/NP/blogs/holy-post/archive/2010/02/27/three-expert-q-amp-as-about-pope-pius-xii-problematic-path-to-sainthood.aspx>



Scholars asked to postpone the canonization of Pius XII

A small group of Catholic scholars has written to Pope Benedict XVI urging him not to press forward with the cause for beatification of Pope Pius XII. Saying that the recent step to confer the title "venerable" on the wartime Pontiff "deeply troubles us," the signatories urge patience.

<http://ncronline.org/news/vatican/updated-scholars-ask-pope-slow-pius-xiis-canonization>

<http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=5478>

The problem of a date on Pius XII document

Pope Pius XII was again in the news this week, as researchers presented two documents that were interpreted as putting the Pope in a negative light regarding his response to the Holocaust.

<http://catholic.net/index.php?option=zenit&id=28234>

Pius XII defended in Israeli Newspaper

The controversy over Pope Pius XII's actions during World War II was recently reignited when Pope Benedict XVI signed a decree affirming that his predecessor displayed "heroic virtues" during his lifetime.

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1144457.html>

Pius XII and his silence during the war

The creation of the State of Israel in 1948 was viewed by the Vatican "with mixed feelings," and Pope Pius XII greeted the news by calling for a "crusade of prayer" for "the sacred land" ("terra sacra"), says Mordechai Lewy, Israel's ambassador to the Holy See.

<http://www.jpost.com/JewishWorld/JewishFeatures/Article.aspx?id=171940>

Other articles related to Pius XII

Pope Benedict XVI's appearance at Rome's Great Synagogue on Jan. 17 did nothing to quell the controversy over plans to confer sainthood on Pius XII, the wartime pontiff who has been called "Hitler's pope." In fact, he may have made matters worse when just two days earlier he took a further step in the process by declaring Pius' "heroic virtues."

<http://www.jweekly.com/includes/print/41172/article/hitlers-pope-doesnt-deserve-sainthood/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/08/nyregion/08pius.html?pagewanted=all>

<http://af.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=AFTRE60Q3M820100127>

<http://www.cathnews.com/article.aspx?aeid=18892>

<http://blogs.forward.com/jj-goldberg/122920/>

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article6975139.ece>



IJCIC Developments

On 16 and 17 March 2010 an IJCIC delegation in Rome (Italy) led by Rabbi Richard Marker and comprising meetings with the Israel ambassador to the Holy See, Mordechai Lewy; the vice-president of the Commission of the Holy See for Religious Relations with the Jews, Bishop Brian Farrell; the president of the Pontifical Council for Religious Dialogue, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran; the president of the Pontifical Council 'Justice and Peace', Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson; the leadership of the Community of Sant' Egidio; and the Vatican's Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. Betty Ehrenberg WJC North America Executive Director and Maram Stern WJC Deputy Secretary General participated in the meetings.

Communities Update

Latin American Jewish Congress

The Latin American Jewish Congress published a booklet 'Building Bridges of Understanding' the introduction of which says "at the Latin American Jewish Congress we believe that interfaith dialogue builds bridges which approach us in the similarities, preserving the differences of our own identity. Together with our brothers of different faiths we combat prejudice, intolerance and fundamentalism, to make a contribution to the construction of coexistence. Latin American Jewish Congress holds an intense agenda of dialogue between religions, participating in conferences, meetings and projects, to show the way to reach Peace".

Press Articles

For further reading on Interfaith issues:

<http://chiesa.espresso.repubblica.it/articolo/1342271?eng=y>

<http://chiesa.espresso.repubblica.it/articolo/1341657?eng=y>

A new interreligious website completely dedicate to Jerusalem.

In English and in French, containing news, calendar, opinions, articles, information on Jewish, Christian and Islamic life in Jerusalem.

<http://www.jerusalem-religions.net/spip.php?rubrique23>

