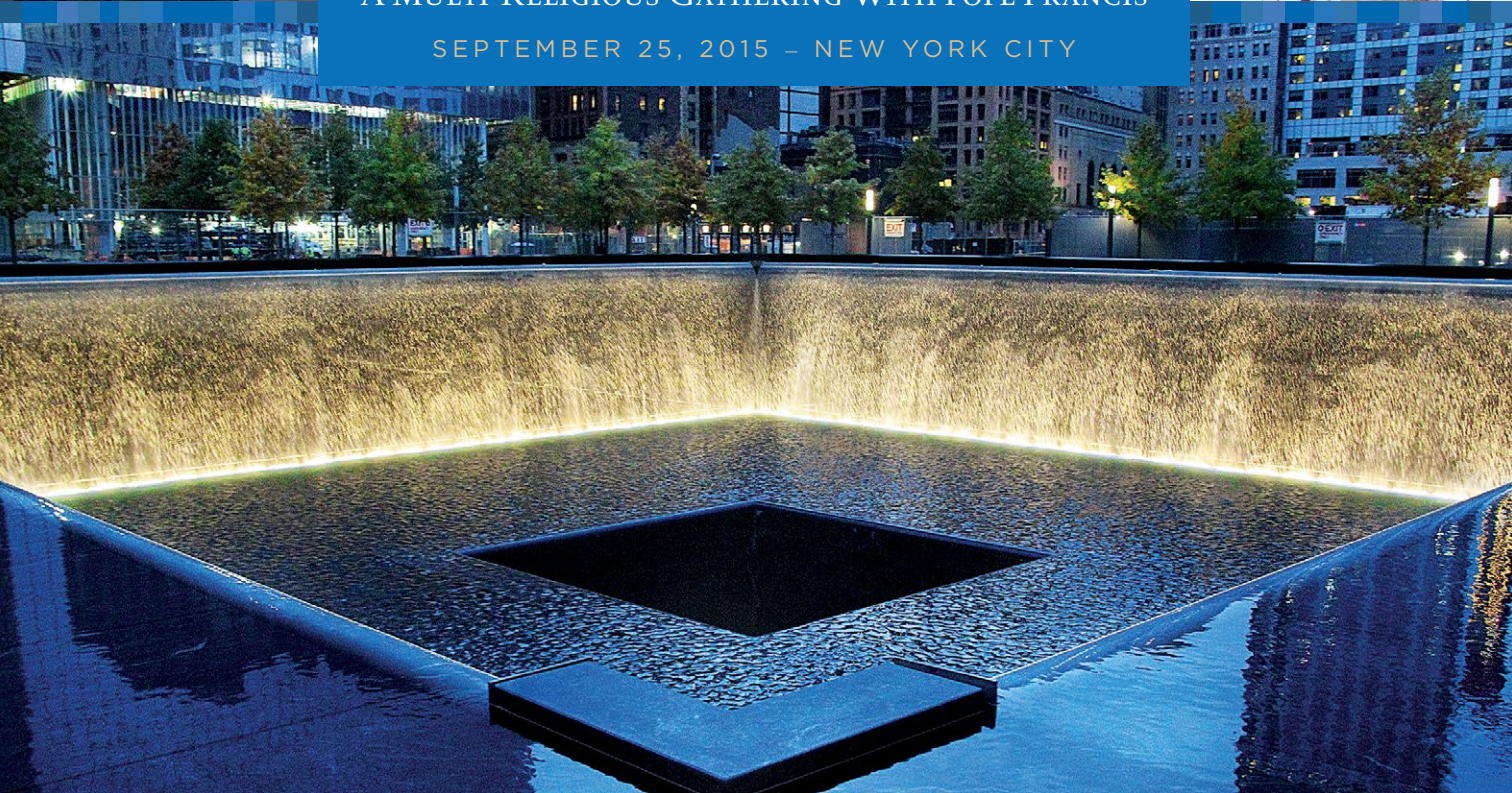




A WITNESS TO PEACE
A MULTI-RELIGIOUS GATHERING WITH POPE FRANCIS
SEPTEMBER 25, 2015 – NEW YORK CITY



“Dialogue is born from an attitude of respect for the other person, from a conviction that the other person has something good to say. It assumes that there is room in the heart for the person’s point of view, opinion, and proposal. To dialogue entails a cordial reception, not a prior condemnation. In order to dialogue, it is necessary to know how to lower the defenses, open the doors of the house, and offer human warmth.”

– *On Heaven and Earth: Pope Francis on Faith, Family, and the Church in the Twenty-first Century. By Pope Francis and Rabbi Abraham Skorka. Edited by Diego F. Rosemberg.*

WELCOME.





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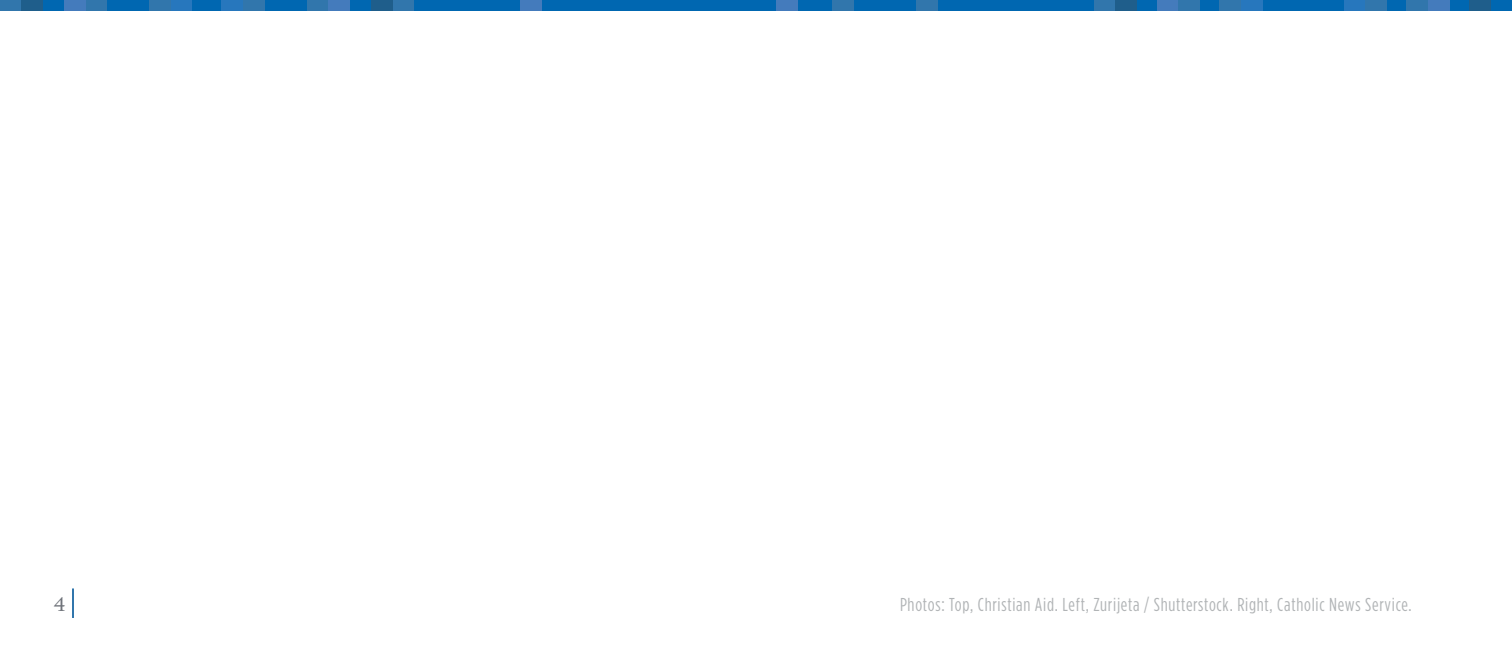




Photo: Catholic News Service



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VATICAN II DECREE ON NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS (*NOSTRA AETATE*)

In October, the Catholic Church and its interreligious partners observe an important milestone in the movement to build peace and cooperation among the world's religions: The fiftieth anniversary of the promulgation of the Second Vatican Council's "Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions," better-known as *Nostra Aetate* (October 28, 1965).

Nostra Aetate consists of five brief sections. The introductory section articulates the goal of the document, namely, to promote unity and love among human beings by highlighting those things that Catholics share in common with the followers of other religions.

The second section highlights certain features of Hinduism and Buddhism. All religions try to respond to the fundamental questions of life through teachings, rules of life, and rites. Although the Catholic Church always proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it rejects nothing that is true and holy in other religions. All Catholics should be committed to dialogue and collaboration with the followers of these religions.

The third section notes the esteem of the Church for Muslims, for they adore the one God and strive to carry out his will in their lives. Christians and Muslims should set aside the differences of the past and work to promote mutual understanding and peace.

The fourth section acknowledges the great spiritual bonds that exist between Christians and Jews. God has repented neither of his gifts nor of his call to the Jewish people. Blame for the death of Jesus cannot be placed upon all Jews alive at the time nor upon the Jews of today. The Church decries hatred, persecutions, and displays of anti-Semitism directed against Jews of any time or place.

The final section affirms the dignity and rights of all human persons and denounces any discrimination based upon race, color, condition of life, or religion.

For fifty years, *Nostra Aetate* has served as the blueprint for the Catholic Church's efforts to promote peace, harmony, and understanding with other religions. It continues to inspire Catholics and their interreligious partners to pursue these essential goals.



Photos: Pope, Giulio Napolitano / Shutterstock. Right, Orhan Cam / Shutterstock.



Pope Francis announced his intention to travel to the United States for the 2015 World Meeting of Families, in an address to the Colloquium on the Family at the Vatican on November 17, 2014. Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, welcomed the news.

“The presence of Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in our country will be a joyful moment for millions of Catholics and people of good will. Our great hope has been that the Holy Father would visit us next year to inspire our families in their mission of love. It is a blessing to hear the pope himself announce the much anticipated news,” said Archbishop Kurtz.

The schedule for the Pope’s visit to the three cities in the United States is as follows.



ITINERARY

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 22 (WASHINGTON, DC)

Arrival from Cuba at Andrews Air Force Base.

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 23 (WASHINGTON, DC)

Welcome ceremony and meeting with President Obama at the White House.

Midday prayer with the bishops of the United States, St. Matthew’s Cathedral.

Mass of Canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 26 (NEW YORK CITY AND PHILADELPHIA)

Departure from John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Arrival at Atlantic Aviation Airport, Philadelphia.

Mass at Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia.

Visit to Independence Mall.

Visit to the Festival of Families, Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 27 (PHILADELPHIA)

Meeting with bishops at St. Martin's Chapel, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Visit to Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility.

Mass for the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families, Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Visit with organizers, volunteers and benefactors of the World Meeting of Families, Atlantic Aviation Airport.

Departure for Rome.

Photos: Left, Coccozero / Shutterstock. Right, Rudy Balasko / Shutterstock.

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 24 (WASHINGTON, DC AND NEW YORK CITY)

Address to Joint Session of the United States Congress.

Visit to a Catholic Charities center of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Departure from Andrews Air Force Base.

Arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Papal Procession down Fifth Avenue.

Evening Prayer (Vespers) at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 25 (NEW YORK CITY)

Visit to the United Nations and Address to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Prayer at the South Pool of the 9/11 Memorial.

Multi-religious gathering at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, World Trade Center.

Visit to Our Lady Queen of Angels School, East Harlem for meetings with schoolchildren, and immigrants assisted by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

Papal Procession through Central Park.

Mass at Madison Square Garden.





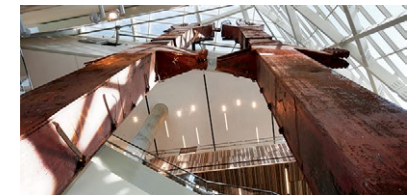
NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center bears solemn witness to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. It honors the victims of these attacks and all those who risked their lives to save others. The Museum attests to the triumph of human dignity over human depravity and affirms an unwavering commitment to the fundamental value of human life.

The Memorial is a tribute to the past and a place of hope for the future. The reflecting pools, set within the footprints of the original Twin

Towers, are each nearly an acre in size and feature the largest manmade waterfalls in North America. The design evokes a spirit of hope and renewal, and creates a contemplative space separate from the sights and sounds of a bustling metropolis.

As an exhibition space, the Museum tells the story of 9/11 through multimedia displays, archives, narratives and artifacts. This rich collection provides a link to the events of 9/11, while presenting intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning, and recovery.



Photos: Left, Jin Lee. Top left, Amy Dreher. Top right, Jin Lee.



A WITNESS TO PEACE
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SEPTEMBER 25, 2015 – NEW YORK CITY
NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

ENTRANCE OF THE HOLY FATHER

WELCOME OF THE HOLY FATHER
— CARDINAL TIMOTHY M. DOLAN, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK —

REFLECTIONS
RABBI ELLIOT COSGROVE
AND
IMAM KHALID LATIF

PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE

— POPE FRANCIS —

O God of love, compassion, and healing,
look on us, people of many different faiths
and religious traditions,
who gather today on this hallowed ground,
the scene of unspeakable violence and pain.

We ask you in your goodness
to give eternal light and peace
to all who died here:
the heroic first-responders:
our firefighters, police officers,
emergency service workers, and
Port Authority personnel,
along with all the innocent men and women
who were victims of this tragedy
simply because their work or service
brought them here on September 11, 2001.

We ask you, in your compassion,
to bring healing to those
who, because of their presence here
fourteen years ago,
continue to suffer from injuries and illness.
Heal, too, the pain of still-grieving families
and all who lost loved ones in this tragedy.
Give them strength to continue their lives
with courage and hope.

We are mindful as well
of those who suffered death, injury, and loss
on the same day at the Pentagon and in
Shanksville, Pennsylvania.
Our hearts are one with theirs
as our prayer embraces their pain and suffering.

God of peace, bring your peace
to our violent world:
peace in the hearts of all men and women
and peace among the nations of the earth.
Turn to your way of love
those whose hearts and minds
are consumed with hatred
and who justify killing in the name of religion.

God of understanding,
overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy,
we seek your light and guidance
as we confront such terrible events.
Grant that those whose lives were spared
may live so that the lives lost here
may not have been lost in vain.

Comfort and console us,
strengthen us in hope,
and give us the wisdom and courage
to work tirelessly for a world
where true peace and love reign
among nations and in the hearts of all.

MEDITATIONS ON PEACE

READ IN SACRED TONGUE AND IN ENGLISH

— HINDU —

DR. UMA MYSOREKAR
MS. ISHANAA RAMBACHAN

Om...May He protect us both (gug and disciple).
May he cause us to enjoy (the Supreme).
May we both work with great energy.
May our study become brilliant.
May we not hate each other.
Om...peace, peace, peace.
Lead me from unreal to real;
lead me from darkness To light
lead me from death to immortality.
Om...peace, peace, peace.

— BUDDHIST —

REVEREND YASUKO NIWANO
BHANTE HENNBUNNE KONDAÑÑA

Victory begets enmity;
the defeated dwell in pain;
the peaceful live happily
Discarding both victory and defeat.
One should not do any slight wrong
Which the wise might censure,
May all beings be happy and secure!
May all beings have happy minds!
PEACE!

— SIKH —

DR. SATPAL SINGH
DR. GUNISHA KAUR

God judges us according to our deeds, not the coat
that we wear: that Truth is above everything, and the
highest deed is truthful living. Know that we attain
God when we love, and only that victory endures,
in consequence of which no one is defeated.

— CHRISTIAN —

ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS
REVEREND A.R. BERNARD, SR.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom
of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall
be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit
the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are
the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are
the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are
the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness'
sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

— MUSLIM —

IMAM KHALID LATIF
DR. SARAH SAYEED

O Allah! You are Peace, and All Peace is from You; and all
Peace returns to You. Grant us to live with the salutation
of peace, and lead us to your abode of Peace. You are
blessed, our Lord, and Exalted, O Owner of Magnificence
and Honor!

JEWISH PRAYER IN HONOR OF THE DECEASED

SUNG BY CANTOR AZI SCHWARTZ

O G-d, full of compassion, Who dwells on high,
grant true rest upon the wings of the Shechinah,
in the exalted spheres of the holy and pure,
who shine as the resplendence of the firmament,
to the souls of Victims of September 11th
who [have] gone to their eternal home;
may their place of rest be in Gan Eden.
Therefore, may the All-Merciful One
shelter them with the cover of His wings forever,
and bind their souls in the bond of life.
The Lord is their heritage; may they rest in peace;
and let us say: Amen!

REFLECTION BY THE HOLY FATHER

CHORAL PIECE

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS OF NEW YORK CITY

"LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH"

SIGN OF PEACE

DEPARTURE OF THE HOLY FATHER





Photos: Top, Kurkul / Shutterstock. Left, Tarzan9280 / iStock. Right, Roopa Bhopale.



REPRESENTATIVES OF WORLD RELIGIONS



CARDINAL TIMOTHY MICHAEL DOLAN

Cardinal Dolan has been the head of the Archdiocese of New York since 2009. Ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 1976, Cardinal Dolan later earned a doctorate in American Church History at The Catholic University of America. He has published and lectured widely on topics in church history, priestly spirituality and issues of faith and culture. A member of various Vatican commissions, His Eminence was created a Cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012, and in the following year participated in the conclave that elected Pope Francis.



RABBI
ELLIOT J. COSGROVE, PH.D.

Rabbi Cosgrove is Senior Rabbi of Park Avenue Synagogue. In 1999 he was ordained at The Jewish Theological Seminary, and subsequently earned a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly and the Editorial Board of Conservative Judaism. An officer of the New York Board of Rabbis, he is an advisor on interfaith affairs to the Anti-Defamation League and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is the author of seven volumes of sermons and the editor of *Jewish Theology in Our Time*.



CANTOR
AZI SCHWARTZ

Mr. Schwartz is the Cantor and Music Director of the Park Avenue Synagogue. Born and raised in Israel, Cantor Schwartz has sung with prestigious orchestras and choirs around the world, and has released eight solo albums. Azi Schwartz earned a master of music from the Mannes School of Music in New York City, where he majored in voice and conducting. He is a graduate of the Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute.



IMAM
KHALID LATIF

Imam Latif is the Executive Director of the Islamic Center and Chaplain to Muslim students at New York University. A dedicated spiritual leader for many young Muslims in the region, Imam Latif has won the attention of the current and previous mayoral administrations for forging paths of interfaith learning and cooperation. In 2007 Mayor Michael Bloomberg nominated him to become the youngest chaplain in the history of the New York City Police Department. His work includes combatting hatred and reaching across religious boundaries to solve social problems.



SARAH SAYEED, PH.D.

Dr. Sayeed is a Senior Advisor in the Community Affairs Unit of the Mayor's Office of New York City. She previously worked at the Interfaith Center of New York, conducting the Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice, a Catholic-Muslim dialogue, and various social service projects with other religious communities. Dr. Sayeed also volunteers with Women in Islam, Inc., an organization that seeks to empower women through education that draws on moral principles from the Islamic and modern human rights traditions.



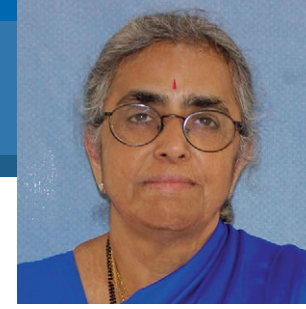
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS
(TRAKATELLIS) OF AMERICA

Archbishop Demetrios was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. He was ordained a priest in 1964 and elected Bishop of Vresthena in 1967. In 1972 he earned a Ph.D. from Harvard University in New Testament and Christian Origins, and in 1977 a second doctorate from the University of Athens. Later he lectured in early Christianity at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and Harvard Divinity School. A member of the Academy of Athens, Archbishop Demetrios was elected in 1999 as the Archbishop of America by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



THE REVEREND
A. R. BERNARD, SR.

Reverend Bernard is the founder and CEO of the Christian Cultural Center in Brooklyn, New York. A national leader in the Evangelical movement, Pastor Bernard is a past President of the Council of Churches of the City of New York and founder of the Christian Community Relations Council, a not-for-profit that serves congregations and community organizations in the city. He served on Mayor Bill de Blasio's 2014 Transition Team. Currently, he sits on the NYC Economic Development Corporation and the Board of Directors for the Commission of Religious Leaders.



UMA V. MYSOREKAR, M.D.

Dr. Mysorekar, an obstetrician and gynecologist, was born in Bangalore, India and has been involved in various humanitarian and interfaith organizations since 1976. As President of the Hindu Temple Society of North America, home to the Temple Ganesh, she has led the expansion of her community's membership and facilities located in Flushing, New York. Dr. Mysorekar has participated in many dialogues between Hindus and other religious groups, and is currently a Vice-Chair of the New York Interfaith Council.



ISHANAA RAMBACHAN

Ms. Rambachan is an Associate Principal at McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting firm that serves leading businesses, governments, non-governmental organizations, and not-for-profits. Prior to joining the company in 2010, she completed a master's degree at the University of Oxford, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. Ms. Rambachan has served on the Hindu American Foundation (2007-2008) and pursued research with Harvard University's Pluralism Project that involved documenting the religious life of Indo-Caribbean Hindus in the Midwest.



REVEREND
YASUKO NIWANO

Reverend Niwano is the head of the Rissho Kosei-kai New York City branch church, a Mahayana Buddhist group that has maintained close ties with the Catholic Church since the Second Vatican Council. An ordained priest in the Japanese traditional Buddhist Tendai sect, Reverend Niwano moved from Tokyo to the United States to pursue her education at New York University. Later, she did graduate work at New York State University. Active in many forms of interreligious dialogue, Reverend Niwano is a student of Japanese calligraphy.



BHANTE HENNBUNNE KONDAÑÑA

Bhante Kondañña, a Sri Lankan Buddhist Monk, received his novice ordination in 1968. His monastic training took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and he studied Buddhist Philosophy at the University of Kelaniye. In 1985 he came to the United States to serve the spiritual needs of the New York Buddhist Vihara. A trained social worker, Bhante Kondañña is currently Abbott of the Staten Island Buddhist Vihara and the past President of the Buddhist Council of New York. His work in building bridges of friendship to other religious communities includes disaster relief efforts and peace education for the post-9/11 world.



SATPAL SINGH, PH.D.

Dr. Singh is a Founding Trustee of the Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations, and the immediate past Chairperson of the World Sikh Council - America Region. He is actively involved in Catholic-Sikh relations and interfaith dialogues on diversity and peace-making. An author and speaker on human rights issues, particularly violence against women, Dr. Singh is also an Associate Professor of Behavioral Pharmacology at SUNY, Buffalo. He conducts an annual summer-long research program at the University of Cambridge.



GUNISHA KAUR, M.D.

Dr. Kaur, an active member of the Sikh community, is an anesthesiologist at Weill Cornell Medical College and the Director of the Department of Anesthesiology's Global Health Initiative. A graduate of Cornell Medical College and Harvard University, Dr. Kaur has over a decade of experience in human rights documentation and advocacy. She is passionate about applying medicine to human rights work.



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“LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”

PERFORMED BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE’S CHORUS OF NEW YORK CITY

Francisco J. Núñez, Founder / Artistic Director

Let there be peace on Earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator
Family all are we.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on Earth,
And let it begin with me.

Peace on Earth / let it begin with me.

Peace on Earth / let it begin...

Take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on Earth,
And let it begin...with me.

Lyrics by Jill Jackson & Sy Miller

“If we go in search of other people,
other cultures, other ways of thinking,
other religions, we come out of ourselves
and begin that beautiful adventure that
is called ‘dialogue.’

Dialogue is very important
for one’s maturity, because in relation
with other people, relations with other
cultures, also in healthy relations with
other religions, one grows;
grows, matures.”

– *Address of His Holiness Pope Francis
to teachers and students from the
Seibu Gakuen Bunri Junior High School in Tokyo
at the St. Damasus Courtyard in the Vatican,
August 21, 2013*





A WITNESS TO PEACE

A MULTI-RELIGIOUS GATHERING

WITH POPE FRANCIS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

NEW YORK CITY

9/11
MEMORIAL



FRANCIS, OUR POPE

A JOURNEY OF FAITH
THROUGH THE HEART OF NEW YORK 2015