

Encounters in Ecumenism

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Recently news reached Canada of a Catholic Priest from India who donated one of his Kidneys to a Hindu Man who was a complete stranger. It was an interesting point of reflection regarding God's love for each and every person; that the action of one man would give life to another. Acts of Charity, such as this that reach out to our fellow human beings is one way that we see a love that goes to the heart of the Gospel message.

This action passed the boundaries of religious practice, reaching out to another the way that God loves us. It didn't require knowledge of the recipient, or a judgment of worthiness, or a requirement of a like religious practice, only an unselfish act that reflected love for another. As I reflected on the scripture, "God so loved the World that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life" *John 3:16*, I couldn't help but think, what a wonderful truth! The verse doesn't say that the heart of God only loves Christians or religious people. The verse doesn't say that God only loves righteous people or churchgoers. The Word of God is clear that God loves "the world" (and that includes everyone). No matter who you are, God truly loves you.

There are 6 billion people in the world, and each person has his or her own thoughts about the Creator. People's views may not be wrong, just different than us. God's revelation of Himself through Jesus Christ to all humanity helps His people to reach out in charity, and to give thanks for the Faith that has been given either through birth that we are subsequently confirmed in, or the free will choosing that takes place in a certain time and place as adults.



Scripture to contemplate

"God so loved the World that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life" John 3:16

Question to Ponder

Do we see our faith as a free and unmerited gift from God?
Do we see that gift bringing about unity to the whole world?

Ecumenism in Action

Share ecumenical/interfaith activities happening in your parish. Deadline: 5th of each month.

E-mail Fr. James at ecumenism@rcdiocese-calgary.ab.ca or call 218-5521 with details.

Oct. 31: Workshop for Ecumenical Contacts in the parish to share our ministry. 9:00 AM, Ascension Parish (1100 Berkshire Blvd. NW). Please use the west entrance.

Nov. 1: Annual Fall Dialogue of the Jewish-Christian Dialogue. This year's speaker is Doris Bergen and her talk is subtitled "Maintaining Bonds of Affection for Personal and Communal Survival." 2:30 PM, St. Cecilia Parish (321 - 90 Avenue SE). Tickets are \$10.

Nov. 3: Chair of Christian Thought of the University of Calgary is also having Doris Bergen as a speaker. She will present on "Christian Churches in the Third Reich." 12:00 Noon, (Evan Room, Rozsa Centre, UofC). That evening she will also be presenting on a similar topic at First Assembly Church (6031 Elbow Dr. SW).

Nov. 5-7: Please pray for the gathering of the Western Diocesan and Eparchial Coordinator of Ecumenism (WDECE). The conference will be here in Calgary this year.

Nov. 20-22: The Wisdom Centre is presenting a weekend with Rabbi Rami Shapiro. Please check out the website: <http://www.wisdomcentre.ca/events.html>. Early bird tickets are still available at \$60 until Nov. 2.

Commission Members

Fr. Avinash Colaco – Vice-Chair, Deacon Gary Haney, Harry Ziel, Fr. James Hagel – Director, Joel Christie, Leslie Padula – Chair, Maureen Condon Horon, Mike Heimbocker.