

OIKOUMENE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMISSION FOR ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY, NY

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*OIKOUMENE IS GREEK FOR "HOUSE" "FAMILY" "PEOPLE" "NATION" "OPEN TO OR PARTICIPATING IN THE WHOLE INHABITED WORLD" AND IS THE SOURCE OF OUR WORD "ECUMENICAL," BUT HAS A BROADER SENSE. [PER ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA]

“From the Desk of the Director”

Bodhi & Chanukah & Immaculate Conception December 8, 2023

Dear Clergy, Religious & Lay friends,

Enclosed please find an Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God, which could be used during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25) or anytime during the year. This year's theme is: "You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbor as yourself." There will be an ecumenical celebration at the Pastoral Center, during Church Unity Octave – Jan. 24 – 12:15, in the Chapel. Our new Protestant Observer on the diocesan ecumenical Commission, Fr. Bill Hinrichs, will preach. Speaking of the Commission, THANK YOU to our Commission members, esp. our Chair – David Amico & Secretary, Lisa Petrocelli.

“The war in the Holy Land is playing out in real time before us with its mounting casualties...The October 7 terrorist attacks of Hamas which initiated this war must be condemned. We renew the call for the release of hostages and protection of civilian populations....We continue to pray for the victims caught in this cycle of violence...We must not grow weary of offering our prayers and support for peace and justice for all concerned. A lasting solution respecting the rights, needs, and aspirations of both Israelis & Palestinians remains essential to these ends. With passions enflamed in our own communities, online, and around the world, we must guard against any tendency to sow hatred against people of other faiths....”

-Bishop David Malloy, Chair USCCB's Committee on International Justice & Peace

May we long for the golden age in medieval Spain, where for more than 7 centuries Muslims, Jews & Christians lived together in an atmosphere of tolerance, and where literature, science & the arts flourished”

-Dr. Maria Rosa Menocal, author of: Ornament of the World

“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having human experience”

-Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (Fr. David LeFort's memorial card)

“In my personal & pastoral experience, what any person most needs in any time of crisis, especially one connected to a traumatic or violent event – is the compassionate, non-judgmental presence of others.”

-Rabbi Dan Ornstein Times Union No. 23, '23

A public witness against anti-Semitism is to wear the blue button being advertised in the media.

Noteworthy: Pierbattista Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem, on Oct. 16, offered himself to be exchanged for Israeli hostages being held by Hamas. At becoming Cardinal: The dialogue with Judaism is the first & most important because it is a dialogue with our roots.”

“Send your peace, O Lord, which is perfect & everlasting, that our souls may radiate peace.

Send your peace, O Lord, that we may think, act, and speak harmoniously.

Send your peace, O Lord, that we may be contented and thankful for your bountiful gifts.

Send your peace, O Lord, that amidst our worldly strife we may enjoy your bliss.

Send your peace, O Lord, that we may endure all, tolerate all in the thought of your grace & mercy.

Send your peace, O Lord, that our lives may become a divine vision, and in your light all darkness may vanish.”

–Sufi (Muslim) Prayer

“Almighty God, guide the nations of the world, especially Palestine, Israel...into ways of justice & truth and establish among them that peace, which is the fruit of righteousness....”

-Bethany Ministries

Did you know? Martin Luther was the first to put lights on a Christmas tree!

CONGRATULATIONS to Joan Lipscomb, recipient of Interfaith Alliance Joan Dunham award: 10/26/23.

Highlighting Pope St. John Paul II's address to young Muslims in 1985, Cardinal Clemente says, “The Catholic identity of (the)event is not less because other religions take part, but it's even stronger, because it's as Jesus (said): ‘whoever is not against us is for us.’ We welcome those who are with us not only in faith, but in life.”

“If I insist on giving you my truth, and never stop to receive your truth in return, there can be no truth between us.”

-Thomas Merton

“Judging from the deafening silence in ecumenical & interfaith circles around the country, people of all faiths and persuasions are finding it very difficult to speak what must be said, what they are thinking too. Some may be awakening only now to the dilemma of another people at another time, living under the rise of Nazism –the sudden explosion of anti-Semitism – should we at least say something? Will we also be silent?

....This conflict is best viewed as one between Israel & Hamas, not Jews & Palestinians.”

-Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, The Evangelist
11/2/23



Fr. Jim Kane

Director

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