



Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

In 1964 Pope Paul VI instituted a department of the Roman Curia for relations with followers of other religions, now known as the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID).

Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue
via della Conciliazione, 5
00120 Vatican City
Tel: +39 06 6988.4321
Fax: +39 06 6988.4494
Email: dialogo@interrel.va
www.pcinterreligious.org

*Painting by Dolores Puthod -
1978 "Followers of God"*



Dialogue ...

1. ... implies speaking and listening, giving and receiving, mutual growth and enrichment.
2. It is based on witness to one's faith as well as openness to the religion of another. It is not a betrayal of the mission of the Church, nor is it a new method of conversion to Christianity.
3. This includes promoting respect, mutual understanding, and collaboration between Catholics and the followers of others religious traditions; encouraging the study of religions; promoting the formation of persons dedicated to dialogue.
4. The ecumenical dimension of interreligious dialogue is an important aspect of the Council's approach. The PCID has an ongoing relationship with the World Council of Churches and collaborates on initiatives in study and promotion of interreligious dialogue.
5. The PCID restricts itself to religious questions. Its competence does not, therefore, extend to political issues.
6. Relations with Judaism is not part of the competence of the PCID.



Structure of the Council

1. The decision-making body consists of Members of the Council, approximately 35 Cardinals and Bishops from different parts of the world.
2. The advisory body is made up of about 30 Consultors coming from different continents, who are specialists in the study of religions and interreligious dialogue.
3. The executive body is the permanent staff engaged in the work of the Dicastery and is made up of the President, Secretary, Under-Secretary and various Officials covering Islam, Traditional Religions, Asian Religions, New Religious Movements, as well as other competencies.
4. The *Commission for Religious Relations with Muslims* was instituted by Pope Paul VI in 1974 as a distinct body linked to the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Its consultors have the task of fostering religious relations between Christians and Muslims and promoting opportunities for exchange.



Activities of the Council

1. The Council receives many visits from representatives of different religions. Of particular importance are the meetings with Bishops during their "ad Limina" visits.
2. The PCID operates in close collaboration with local Bishops and Episcopal Commissions for interreligious dialogue which have the principal responsibility of promoting interreligious dialogue.
3. Conferences and visits are regularly scheduled with partners of other religions, in Rome and at an international level.
4. The PCID publishes various materials on interreligious dialogue. The *Pro Dialogo Bulletin* is published regularly and includes documents of the Holy Father and the Magisterium, articles from experts and information on the activities in dialogue around the world.
5. Created in 1990 the *Nostra Aetate Foundation* has as its aim the promotion of interreligious dialogue through granting scholarships to young people of other religions desiring to deepen their knowledge of Christianity through study at a Pontifical academic institution in Rome. The Foundation also makes grants in support of local initiatives for promoting interreligious dialogue.
6. The PCID website (www.pcinterreligious.org) provides information, documents, excerpts from the Pope and the *Pro Dialogo Bulletin* for downloading.



"The dialogue that we need cannot but be open and respectful, and thus prove fruitful. Mutual respect is the condition and, at the same time, the aim of interreligious dialogue: respecting others' right to life, to physical integrity, to fundamental freedoms, namely freedom of conscience, of thought, of expression and of religion."
(Pope Francis, *Interreligious Audience for 50th Anniversary of Nostra aetate*, 28 October 2015)