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# SION IN DIALOGUE

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## Editorial

This is the eighth newsletter from the Sion International Jewish Christian Relations Team.

Further

on the “dialogue” heartfelt spirit of common human preoccupations troubled times, it that we be our next issue we on what “Nostra issue includes dialogue.



reflection needs to be done **of life**” where we relate in a friendship to share our experiences-joys, sorrows and problems. In these is more urgent than ever ambassadors for peace. In will feature your reflections **Aetate**” means to you. This several articles on interfaith

- Voice le huitième bulletin d'information de l'Équipe internationale de Sion pour les relations Judeo-chrétiennes. Une réflexion approfondie doit être effectuée sur le "dialogue de la vie" relatives dans le contexte d'un esprit d'amitié et partagent nos expériences humaines-joies, chagrins préoccupations et problèmes de la vie. En ces temps troublés, il est plus urgent que jamais que nous soyons des ambassadeurs de la paix. Notre prochain numéro présentera vos réflexions sur ce que "Nostra Aetate" signifie pour vous. Cette édition comprend plusieurs articles sur le dialogue interreligieux.
- Aqui está o oitavo boletim da Equipe Internacional das Relações judaico-Cristã de Sion. O foco é o diálogo. Além disso, uma reflexão mais aprofundada precisa ser feita sobre o "diálogo da vida" relacionando um espírito de amizade para compartilhar nossas experiências humanas comuns de alegrias, tristezas, preocupações e problemas

da vida. Nestes tempos conturbados, é mais importante do que nunca que ser embaixadores da paz. Em nossa próxima edição, teremos as vossas reflexões sobre o significado de "Nostra Aetate" significa para você. Esta edição inclui notícias sobre o diálogo inter-religioso.

- Aquí está el octavo boletín del Equipo Internacional de relaciones judío – cristianas. El foco es el diálogo. Una reflexión posterior deberá hacerse en el "diálogo de la vida en un espíritu de amistad para compartir nuestras experiencias humanas comunes-alegrías, penas, preocupaciones y problemas de la vida. En estos tiempos difíciles, es más importante que nunca que seamos embajadores de la paz. En nuestro próximo número, vamos a reflexionar sobre la "Nostra Aetate" en nuestras vidas

Este tema contiene varios artículos sobre el diálogo interreligioso.

### **Marianne**

## **Nuns Celebrate Return of Convent's Megillah**

*Mother Hildegarde of the Tyburn nuns with the Megillah*



An antique megillah restored by a London scribe was returned this week to its owner — a convent of nuns in the West End.

The Tyburn Nuns, who belong to a Benedictine order, received the scroll of Esther as a gift from an American supporter of Jewish-Catholic dialogue.

The heroine of the Megillah, which will be read by Jews at Purim in a few days time, has resonance for the nuns. "We take Esther as a model of godliness, faith and virtue," said the Mother General of the convent, Mother Xavier McMonagle, "and also as a life of

sacrifice for others — she was prepared to sacrifice herself in the hope that the Lord would save her people."

The convent was founded around a century ago near the site of the Tyburn gallows to honour the memory of more than 100 Catholics who were hanged there in the 16th and 17th centuries, and who are regarded as martyrs to the faith.

Mother McMonagle said: "Esther prayed when the Jews were faced with genocide from their enemies. She made her prayer after fasting and with total confidence in her God... and God reversed their fate miraculously.

"The story of Tyburn proclaims a similar message: the blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians."

The Tyburn Megillah, whose return was due to be celebrated at an interfaith ceremony yesterday, was donated by Jordan Cherrick, a lawyer from St Louis, Missouri. Scribe Marc Michaels, who restored it, believes it dates from Italy in the late 1780s.

He said: "The parallels between the hanging tree and the kings who rid themselves of queens in the Tyburn history and the Megillah [where the villainous Haman plots to hang his arch-enemy Mordecai] are amazing."

By [Simon Rocker, March 6, 2014](#)

**Contributed by Margaret Shepherd**

## Young Ambassadors for Interfaith Dialogue

Recently, four young French students in their ninth month of an Interfaith World Tour meeting people involved in interfaith initiatives, visited Sydney. The group to which they belong, the Coexster Youth Movement for Interfaith Dialogue was founded in 2009 and has been joined by thousands of French students from the nation's universities. The group are hearing about what is motivating people to carry out this work and discovering what methods others are finding successful. Young, energetic and passionate, Samuel Grzybowski, Christian, the group's founder; Ismael Medjdoub, Muslim; Victor Grezes, atheist; and Josselin Rieth, agnostic are all in their early twenties. The Jewish member of the group, who had been travelling with them, Ilan Scialom had to return briefly to France. They have a vision to bring about interreligious harmony in their home country of France and they are going to the ends of the earth to make it happen.

On the  
that we met,  
auspices of  
South Wales  
Christians  
the four  
had visited 44  
and learned  
different  
initiatives.  
strongly  
interfaith  
not an end  
rather, a tool



morning  
under the  
the New  
Council of  
and Jews,  
young men,  
countries  
of 350  
interfaith  
They  
believe that  
dialogue is  
itself but  
for peace

and social cohesion. When the students return to France, they will spend several months touring their home country, explaining how interfaith dialogue is carried out in other parts of the world and inspiring their own countrymen and women to actively seek harmony in their own communities. **Marianne**

## Diálogo Inter-religioso em São Paulo

No dia 25 de  
reuniram-se na  
da Sé,  
Arquidiocese  
Paulo,  
interreligiosas e  
autoridades  
celebrar os 460  
cidade de São  
um momento  
Estiveram



Janeiro,  
Catedral  
de São  
lideranças  
civis para  
anos da  
Paulo. Foi  
marcante.  
presentes

lideranças do Judaísmo, Islamismo, Budismo, Espiritismo e Tradição Afro.

A pedido do Pe. Bizon, a Ir. Cristiane, membro da Comissão, está responsável por coordenar a equipe de acolhida das lideranças interreligiosas nos eventos desta natureza. A equipe é composta de dez pessoas. Wellington Apollonio, religioso de Sion integra esta equipe e tem se envolvido nas atividades da Casa da Reconciliação. O cônsul de Israel Yoel Barnea, afirmou: *"Fiquei muito feliz ao entrar na Catedral e ser saudado com o Shalom!"*

No dia 26 de janeiro, o cardeal Arcebispo Dom Odilo Pedro Scherer presidiu, na Catedral da Sé, em São Paulo, uma Celebração Eucarística em Memória às Vítimas do Holocausto. A Confederação Israelita do Brasil foi representada por seu diretor Eduardo Wurzmann. Também participaram os rabinos Michel Schlesinger e Ruben Sternchen, da Congregação Israelita Paulista, Raul Meyer, conselheiro do Centro de Cultura Judaica, e o cônego José

Bizon,  
da Casa  
da  
Reconci-  
liação.

"Pela  
primeir  
a vez na  
história  
desta



Catedral, uma missa foi dedicada à memória das vítimas da Shoá, graças à sensibilidade do cardeal-arcebispo dom Odilo Scherer e ao incansável trabalho da Comissão Nacional de Diálogo Católico-Judaico, liderada pelo cônego Bizon".

D. Odilo leu trechos do discurso que Bento XVI fez, ao visitar Auschwitz, em 2006. O então Papa afirmou que era difícil para um alemão, como ele, visitar o campo de extermínio. Perguntou onde estava Deus e por que ele permitiu que acontecessem tais crimes.

O rabino Sternschein que os seis judeus Holocausto soldados, mas mulheres e que foram de suas casas assassinados. geral de Israel Paulo, Yoel agradeceu a Odilo a da cerimônia. participou entidade judaica Wizo.



observou milhões de vítimas do Holocausto, que não eram homens, crianças arrancados e adolescentes. O cônsul-geral de Israel em São Paulo, Dom Barnea, realizou uma missa em memória das vítimas do Holocausto. També

Após a missa, a comunidade judaica presente, formou um grande círculo de diálogo em torno de Dom Odilo. Foi um momento precioso.

As Irmãs de Sion no Rio de Janeiro participaram de reuniões e encontros. A fraternidade cristão-judaico reuniu-se no dia 10 de março na comunidade de Ipêroig para organizar os preparativos para o Seder.

### **Cristiane**



### **Interreligious Dialogue in São Paulo**

On January 25, interfaith leaders and civil authorities gathered at the Cathedral Cathedral, Archdiocese of St. Paul to celebrate 460 years City of St. Paul. It was a memorable moment. Present were leaders of Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Spiritualists and African Tradition.

At the request of Canon Bizon, Sr Cristiane, a member of the Commission, responsible for coordinating the team welcomed the interfaith leaders in the events of this nature. The team consists of ten people. Wellington Apollonio, religious of Sion coordinates this team and has been involved in the activities of the House of Reconciliation. The Israeli Consul Yoel Barnea, said: "*I was very happy to enter the Cathedral and be greeted with Shalom!*"

On January 26, the Cardinal Archbishop Odilo Pedro Scherer presided at the Sé Cathedral in São Paulo at a Eucharistic Celebration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust. The Jewish Confederation of Brazil was represented by its director Eduardo Wurzmann. Michel Schlesinger and Ruben Sternchein, rabbis from the Israelite Congregation Paulista, Raul Meyer, Counselor at the Center for Jewish Culture, and the canon José Bizon, from House of Reconciliation also participated. "*For the first time in the history of the Cathedral, a mass was dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Shoah, thanks to the sensitivity of the Cardinal Archbishop Odilo Scherer and the tireless work of the National Commission for Catholic-Jewish Dialogue, led by Canon Bizon*". Dom Odilo read excerpts from the speech that Benedict XVI, visiting Auschwitz in 2006 said in that occasion. At the time, the Pope said: "it was difficult for a German like him, visit the death camp. He wondered where God was and why he allowed such crimes to happen".

Rabbi Sternschein noted that the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust were not soldiers, but men, women and children who were uprooted from their homes and murdered.

The General Consul of Israel in São Paulo, Yoel Barnea, thanked Bishop Odilo for performing the ceremony. As part of the celebration, the Jewish female choir from Wizo sang. After Mass, the Jewish community present, has formed a large circle of dialogue around Dom Odilo. It was a precious moment.

The Christian-Jewish fraternity has a newcentre: the Iperoig community, where they will hold their meetings, after leaving Higienópolis Sion School. This first semester, they began preparations for the Seder.

### **Cristiane**

### **Día de las buenas acciones en el Colegio Nuestra Señora de Sion, San José, Costa Rica**

*“Yo creo que si las personas piensan bien, hablan bien y hacen el bien, crecerán los círculos de buenas voluntades y nuestro mundo será mejor” Shari Arison, impulsora del Día de las Buenas Acciones. El mismo nace hace 7 años en Israel y hoy ya se expande a más de 50 países en todo el mundo.*



sonrisa”. Es por eso que este año, el centro israelita y la fundación Bnai Brith de Costa Rica motivaron para que nuestros alumnos y alumnas de Sion vivieran esta experiencia en comunión con otros colegios incluyendo el de la comunidad judía.

Recibimos la invitación inspirados en el espíritu del amor”. Lo primero era integrara y compartiéramos causa, sin importar religión, ni de noveno año se encausan a alumnas del colegio a vivir esta

El día esperado, 6 de con la alegría que nos en la plaza de la ciudad de San humanos invitando a otros



Según la impulsora, Shari Arison, “todo comenzó con el pensamiento acerca de la oportunidad y el privilegio que tenemos para hacer buenas obras para los demás seres humanos, para la comunidad, colocando el énfasis en las habilidades que permanecen en todos nosotros. Una buena acción es cualquier cosa, grande o pequeña, que nos mueve a dar y después sentirse bien por haber dado, incluso una

y nos pusimos a trabajar padre Teodoro, “Fiat con preparar un flashmob que nos como seres humanos por una raza, y es así como los alumnos inspirar a todos y todas las experiencia.

abril, con la camiseta puesta y caracteriza en Sion nos unimos José, éramos muchos seres seres humanos a vivir esta

causa, un día para actuar a favor del otro.

En Sion creemos que es posible un mundo más humano, justo y fraternal y si unimos nuestras voces y nuestras manos lograremos que todos los colores vivamos en paz.

Les invitamos a visitar el espacio en Facebook que refleja esta obra de vida, a la cual pertenecemos.

<https://www.facebook.com/buenasaccionescr>

**En paz y alegría,  
Profesor Walther Santiago Hurtado Silva  
Colegio Nuestra Señora de Sion**

**Isabelle Denis**



*Isabelle Denis, religieuse de Notre-Dame de Sion, a été éducatrice et professeur d'école pendant plus de quarante ans. Partageant ce qu'elle avait reçu par sa formation biblique liturgique et ses études sur le judaïsme, elle a promu un dialogue inter-religieux dans les établissements scolaires catholiques, l'associant à une démarche pédagogique inspirée d'Hélène Lubienska de Lerval, disciple de Maria Montessori. L'accueil reçu à l'école juive Ganenou lui a permis de vivre une nouvelle étape dans ce dialogue depuis 1985.*

*Sa passion constante de vivre à l'écoute de la Parole de Dieu contenue dans les Ecritures l'amène à l'enrichir sans cesse des commentaires de la tradition juive, pour être une passerelle avec le monde chrétien qui est le sien. Sa démarche est avant tout de demander à la communauté juive, et spécialement aux enfants, comment ses membres se définissent eux-mêmes. « Et toi, qui es-tu ? Que dis-tu de toi-même ? » Sa conviction est qu'il est très important de prendre les enfants au sérieux. Ils sont capables de comprendre que Juifs et chrétiens ont une responsabilité commune au service du dessein divin pour le bonheur de toute l'humanité, et qu'ils sont appelés à se préparer à cette tâche dès aujourd'hui pour demain.*

« Lorsque tu viens, est-ce pour apprendre à nous différencier ou à voir ce qui est commun ? Comment cela se fait fait-il que tu sais autant sur notre religion ? Comme tu passes beaucoup de temps avec nous, les juifs, est-ce que tu n'oublies pas ta religion ? Comme tu es souvent avec nous, est-ce que tu restes dans l'idée que Jésus est le Machia'h (= Messie) pour toi ? Est-ce que c'est parce qu'ils sont proches qu'il y a des disputes entre chrétiens et juifs ? »

Voici quelques questions, parmi tant d'autres, que des élèves de CM1-CM2 de l'école juive Ganenou ont posées à Sœur Isabelle, de Notre Dame de Sion, dans le cadre du cours de judaïsme de Zéev Séror. Apprendre de l'autre qui il est, ce qu'il dit de lui-même, échanger dans le plus grand respect et l'estime, découvrir avec surprise ce qui rapproche, au cœur des différences. Et avoir l'occasion de témoigner de soi-même, occasion d'approfondir sa propre identité tout en accueillant l'autre dans son altérité.

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Winnipeg Bat Kol



*Bat Kol Winnipeg organizers stand with Rabbi Alan Green; from left: Koreen Hrizai, Sister Bernadette O'Reilly nds, and Vera Chaykovska. (Buchok photo)*

Rabbi Alan Green of Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Winnipeg conducted a three-session program on Jewish Study of the Word Feb. 27, March 6 and 13, 2014. The series was hosted by Winnipeg's Bat Kol committee made up of representatives from the archdioceses of Winnipeg St. Boniface, the Ukrainian Archeeparchy of Winnipeg and the Sisters of Sion.

Approximately 65 people attended the three session series entitled Introduction to Jewish Study of The Word: A series of three Lenten workshops digging into biblical texts of the Easter Vigil liturgy. Rabbi Green led the group in an inspiring and prayerful study of Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:2), The Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22:1-18) and The Crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14:15-15:1). *Bernadette O'Reilly*

### **Rio de Janeiro**

Eu participo de um grupo de jovem interreligioso no Rio de Janeiro. Nós tivemos um bom Seminário durante a JMJ Rio 2013. Nossa próxima ação será uma "missão de paz" em duas

comunidades muito perigosas nas quais a violência e a ausência de políticas públicas faz parte da vida de milhares de pessoas. Por enquanto, estamos tendo reuniões preparatórias para o evento. Estou enviando as fotos do nosso último encontro, em uma destas comunidades, "Vila Aliança", no último domingo (Março 9th). Éramos: muçulmanos, católicos, protestantes, descendentes de religiões de origem africana (Candomblecistas). Falávamos de paz, de amor e respeito, quebrando as barreiras entre os inimigos, etc. Nossa objetivo é reunir líderes de diversas religiões, em um dia para falar de paz e amor com várias oficinas, incluindo, poesia e competições desportivas, obras sociais, música e shows para ambas as comunidades.



Recently, I participated in an Interreligious Youth Group from Rio de Janeiro. We had a very good Seminar during the JMJ Rio 2013. Our next action will be a "Peace Mission" in two very dangerous communities where violence and absence of public politics is part of the life of thousands of people. For a while, we are having preparatory meetings for this event. I'm sending pictures of our last meeting in one of these communities, "Vila Aliança", last Sunday (March 9th). We were: Muslims, Catholics, Protestants, descendants of African religions (Candomblecistas) talking about peace and love, respect, breaking down barriers among enemies, etc. Our goal is to gather leaders of several religions for a day to talk about peace and love and to hold several interesting workshops for the communities on poetry and sports contests, social works, music and shows.

**Jilvaneide**

