

Final declaration of the Catholic-Muslim Forum

Rome, 6 November 2008

This Forum was formed by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and a delegation of the 138 Muslims who had signed an open letter to Pope Benedict XVI as an answer to his famous speech in Regensburg University. In the final declaration there are some remarkable points of similarity:

2 "Human life is a most precious gift of God to each person. It should therefore be preserved and honored in all its stages".

4 "We affirm that God's creation of humanity has two great aspects: the male and the female human person, and we commit ourselves jointly to ensuring that human dignity and respect are extended on an equal basis to both men and women.

6 "Religious minorities are entitled to be respected in their own religious convictions and practices. They are also entitled to their own places of worship, and their founding figures and symbols they consider sacred should not be subject of any form of mockery or ridicule.

7 "As Catholic and Muslim believers, we are aware of the summons and imperative to bear witness to the transcendent dimension of life, through a spirituality nourished by prayer, in a world which is

becoming more and more secularized and materialistic.

11 "We profess that Catholics and Muslims are called to be instruments of love and harmony among believers, and for humanity as a whole, renouncing any oppression, aggressive violence and terrorism, especially that committed in the name of religion, and upholding the principle of justice for all.

Reading these statements I feel reminded of the first reading of the Epiphany of the Lord:

"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory" (Isaiah 60,2).

Regarding the Catholic-Muslim relations we must be docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. He "wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2,4).

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Collections:

<i>1 January</i>	<i>World Peace Day</i>
<i>4 January</i>	<i>African Catechists</i>
<i>6/11 January</i>	<i>Our Mission</i>
<i>18 January</i>	<i>Family work in the church</i>
<i>1/15/25 February</i>	<i>Our Mission</i>
<i>8 February</i>	<i>Reconstruction of the Propsteikirche, Leipzig</i>
<i>22 February</i>	<i>Catholic schools</i>



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***January/February
2009***

Word of the Priest

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our basic course on St Paul we came across a verse in which the Apostle reveals to the Christians at Ephesus the “mystery of Christ”: “that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (Eph 3,6).

This truth of the universal and international character of the Christian vocation is beautifully illustrated by the Visit of the Magi at Bethlehem: “On entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage” (Mt 2,11).

Who were these men? Pagans, foreigners, intellectuals. Through a miraculous star and the prophecy of Micah they were led to the manger and recognized in the infant Jesus the Lord of the universe, the Savior of the pagans as well.

“Epiphany” is a Greek word meaning “manifestation”. Jesus manifests his divine nature and his royal dignity to these scholars, astronomers and astrologers alike. They must have heard about the Jewish expectation of a Messiah who would not limit his activity to the chosen people, so they were overjoyed when finally they identified him in a poor stable. They would not have “prostrated themselves” had they not been convinced that they had indeed reached the goal of their research.

Christians are “guides”. By their style of life and by their words they point towards Jesus Christ and accompany those who are searching on the way to Bethlehem.

May this New Year 2009 become an “Epiphany” to people we meet.

Father Herbert Gillessen

Liturgy January/February 2009

All Saints / St Bernhard / St Albert

JANUARY

1	Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God	---	11 a.m.	12 noon
4	Epiphany of the Lord	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
6	Epiphany of the Lord	---	7 p.m.	---
11	Baptism of the Lord	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
18	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
25	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon

FEBRUARY

1	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
8	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
15	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
22	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
25	Ash Wednesday	-----	7 p.m.	-----

Information for the Mission in General

Our Mission offers pastoral care, religious education (children and adults: First Holy Communion, Confirmation). Baptisms, weddings, hospital and home visits can be arranged through the Priest.

The Priest is also available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass and by appointment. For weddings, please contact Father Gillessen 3 months in advance.

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at St Bernhard (Rectory)

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14052 Berlin-Charlottenburg
(U-Bahnhof Adenauerplatz,
S-Bahnhof Halensee) M19, M29
Lehliner Platz

at All Saints

Hüttenweg 46
14195 Berlin
Bus 285, 115,

at Heilig Geist

Filipino Community
Bayernallee 28
14052 Berlin-Charlottenburg
(S-Bhf.Heerstr./U-Bhf. Neu-Westend)
Mass on Sundays at 3.30 p.m.

at St Michael

Ghana Community
Waldemarstr. 8-10
10999 Berlin
U-Bhf Moritzplatz
Sunday at 1 p.m.