

Building mutual respect, understanding, and appreciation among Jews, Catholics, and all people of good will by providing opportunities for interfaith education and dialogue.



Pope John Paul II and Center for Catholic–Jewish Studies founder, Rabbi A. James Rudin

A dynamic partnership between Catholics and Jews.

The year 2010 marks the 45th anniversary of Vatican II's declaration, *Nostra Aetate* ("In Our Time"), which opened the door for interfaith education and dialogue in the Catholic Church. The Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Saint Leo University embodies the legacy of *Nostra Aetate*, a vision of mutual spiritual and academic enrichment between Jews and Christians.



A collaboration of the American Jewish Committee and Saint Leo University.



Resources and Programming

Because of our university roots, as well as our commitment to community service, the Center offers a variety of interfaith education and dialogue resources and programming to serve clergy, congregations, classrooms (teachers and students at all levels), and the community at large.

Examples include:

- CCJS website provides a wealth of information and links to respected and reliable interfaith education and dialogue resources.
- Monthly electronic newsletters feature updates on Center programs and events, educational articles, as well as information of general interest in the field of Catholic-Jewish relations.
- Study group and programming resources for Jewish and Catholic communities, include the respected "Walking God's Paths: Christians and Jews in Candid Conversation" video study program endorsed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Council of Synagogues.
- Lectures and conferences address interfaith topics and featuring individuals of national acclaim in the field of interreligious studies.
- Sponsor visiting scholars and academic courses related to the field of Christian-Jewish studies. These important resources are available to Saint Leo University's more than 14,000 undergraduate and graduate students in both traditional classroom and online formats.
- Present the Center's annual Eternal Light Award recognizing the contributions of outstanding leaders in the field of Catholic-Jewish relations.

A Blessing To One Another

"As Christians and Jews, following the example of the faith of Abraham, we are called to be a blessing for the world. This is a common task awaiting us. It is therefore necessary for us, Christians and Jews, to be first a blessing to one another."

— Pope John Paul II, April 1993

"We need to know each other better, and, on the strength of that mutual discovery, to build relationships not just of tolerance, but of authentic respect."

— Pope Benedict XVI, October 2006

"The Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Saint Leo University has both dedicated lay leadership and a superb professional staff. But it also requires the commitment and generosity of its many friends and supporters who recognize the extraordinary role the Center plays in building human bridges of mutual respect and understanding."

— Rabbi A. James Rudin, September 2009

A Brief Guide for Interfaith Education and Dialogue:

- Interfaith dialogue is about conversation, not conversion
- Interfaith dialogue should be respectful, reciprocal, and constructive
- The goal of interfaith dialogue is more interfaith dialogue

For information regarding the Rabbi A. James Rudin Endowment for Interreligious Studies at Saint Leo University please contact the Center Director.

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