

# EDUCATION FOR ACTION

## The Urgency of Interreligious Leadership for the Global Good

**What:** An International Conference Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the John Paul II Center

**Where:** Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome, Italy

**When:** May 7, 2019, 12.30 PM - 7.00 PM

**Why:** Emerging interfaith leaders move from education to action

*With a rise of religion-based hate crimes, positive stories do exist and they offer a vision of hope and cooperation between religions and in society. The John Paul II Center for Interreligious Dialogue, students, alumni and associates offer a balance to the many stories of religious conflict and extremism. Their actions refute the rising hostility toward religion(s) and demonstrate strength in cooperation and positive social cohesion. Interfaith activity is not “fringe.” The “news angle” is social cohesion, cooperation and compassion. Civil discourse is progressive and successful, and religions can stand together against attempts to divide. The program represents a commitment from within traditional religions to interfaith community, dialogue, and action.*

### **Whom: Featured Speakers**

- Rabbi Jack Bemporad, Co-Director, The John Paul II Center for Interreligious Dialogue
- Angelica Berrie, President, Russell Berrie Foundation
- Fr. Michal Paluch, O.P., Rector, The Pontifical University of Thomas Aquinas, “The Angelicum”
- Huda Abuarquob, Regional Director, Alliance for Middle East Peace
- Aart Bos, CEO, MasterPeace
- Joyce Dubensky, CEO, Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding
- Sr. Lucy Thorson, NDS, Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion

## **Participating International Interfaith Organizations**

Charter for Compassion; Coexister; Focolare Movement; Libertas Center; MasterPeace; Tanenbaum; United Religions Initiative; Connecting Actions; North American Interfaith Network; The Muslim Jewish Conference; Tavolo Interreligioso di Roma; The African Middle Eastern Leadership Project; Int. Fed. for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue; Ukrainian Catholic Univ. - Inst. of Ecumenical Studies

**For more information about the different organizations, click [here](#).**

### **Possible talking points:**

1) Remarkable: A Jewish philanthropic organization which has funded grants for fellowships in interreligious dialogue at a major Catholic institution inherently demonstrating interfaith cooperation at the institutional and academic level. This remarkable program contradicts the general stereotype of religions as insular and antagonistic to each other. The Fellowship has supported in-depth training in Interreligious dialogue for ten years, with a Jewish director and religiously mixed faculty at a top Catholic University. **For more information, please click [here](#).**

2) Interfaith Leadership: The program represents a commitment from within traditional religions to interfaith community, dialogue, and action. This represents forward-looking leadership which other religious institutions might emulate by financially supporting not just their own youth but all young leaders to work together to build community.

3) Contemporary Context: The Russell Berrie Fellowship and scholars at the John Paul II Center are actively building interfaith relationships of support when the world is seeing a sharp rise in polarization, religious-based hate crimes, and marked anti-semitism. This program offers an in-depth response to such challenges. This represents a good news story that challenges contemporary stereotypes of religion.

4) Remarkable: Honorary doctorate awarded to Rabbi Jack Bemporad by a Catholic Vatican University in Rome.