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Dialogue in Truth and Charity: Pastoral Orientations for Interreligious Dialogue

Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

When Catholics engage in interreligious dialogue, their aim is not to convert their dialogue partners, but they should not exclude that possibility, say new Vatican guidelines on interreligious dialogue. The document also cautions Catholics against joining in common prayer with followers of other religions because of important differences in their understanding of God. "In encounters

"Whoever is saved by God is without doubt linked to and in relationship with the church, although at times not in an outwardly apparent manner."

with people of other religions and indeed all human beings, Christians must always make Jesus Christ better known, recognized and loved," say the guidelines published by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. The guidelines were published May 19 in conjunction with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the council's establishment by Pope Paul VI. "Interreligious dialogue, in itself, does not aim at conversion. Nevertheless, it does not exclude that it might be an occasion of conversion," the document says. For a true dialogue to occur, it says, both the Christian and his or her dialogue partner must know and practice their own faith. With an attitude of respect and friendship, it says, they share with each other their religion's teachings and challenge one another to grow deeper in faithfulness and in understanding the truth about God. "Experience has shown that for the individual firmly rooted in his or her own religion," the guidelines say, "dialogue can offer a unique occasion to deepen one's own religious beliefs, thereby facilitating growth and maturity." The guidelines follow, copyright © 2014 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

INTRODUCTION

1 "Dialogue in Truth and Charity: Pastoral Orientations for Interreligious Dialogue" was the theme of the 10th plenary assembly of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue held in Rome June 4-7, 2008. It was an important occasion for the cardinals

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