



**The contribution of religions
to peaceful coexistence in Society** ([video](#))

Our globalized world is subject to severe tensions

A photograph showing a man in a black jacket carrying a young child in a blue shirt and white pants through a war-torn, debris-strewn street. The child is looking back over their shoulder. In the background, other people are walking through the rubble, and a white van is parked on the right. The scene is filled with dust and destruction.

2013 was **the year with more wars and violent conflicts** since the end of the World War II

It is necessary to find a more stable foundation for peace

Global Ethics

Interreligious dialogue

The world needs
rebirth through
spiritual and
ethical values





1. A Secular Age

1.1. Immanent humanism: etsi Deus non daretur

1.2. Scientism

2. Proposals to ensure peace

2.1. Global Ethics

2.2. Interreligious dialogue

3. Religions and peace from a Catholic perspective

3.1. Religion wars, an expression of immaturity

3.2. *Nostra Aetate*: interreligious dialogue and with non-believers

3.3. The Seeds of the Word (*Semina Verbi*)

4. The Spirit of Assisi

A Secular Age

Religion has withdrawn from the public sphere and Faith has become only one option among many

Process initiated during the Renaissance

Taylor: 3 types of secularization

A close-up portrait of Charles Taylor, an older man with grey hair and a mustache, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a blue shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

1. Political: exclusion of God from the public space

2. Sociological: data on religious belief and practice

3. Existential: conditions for the experience of faith and the search for meaning

**Immanent vision
of reality, common
to believers and
non-believers**

A SECULAR AGE

Two major trends:

- 1. Immanent humanism**
- 2. Scientism**



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Immanent humanism

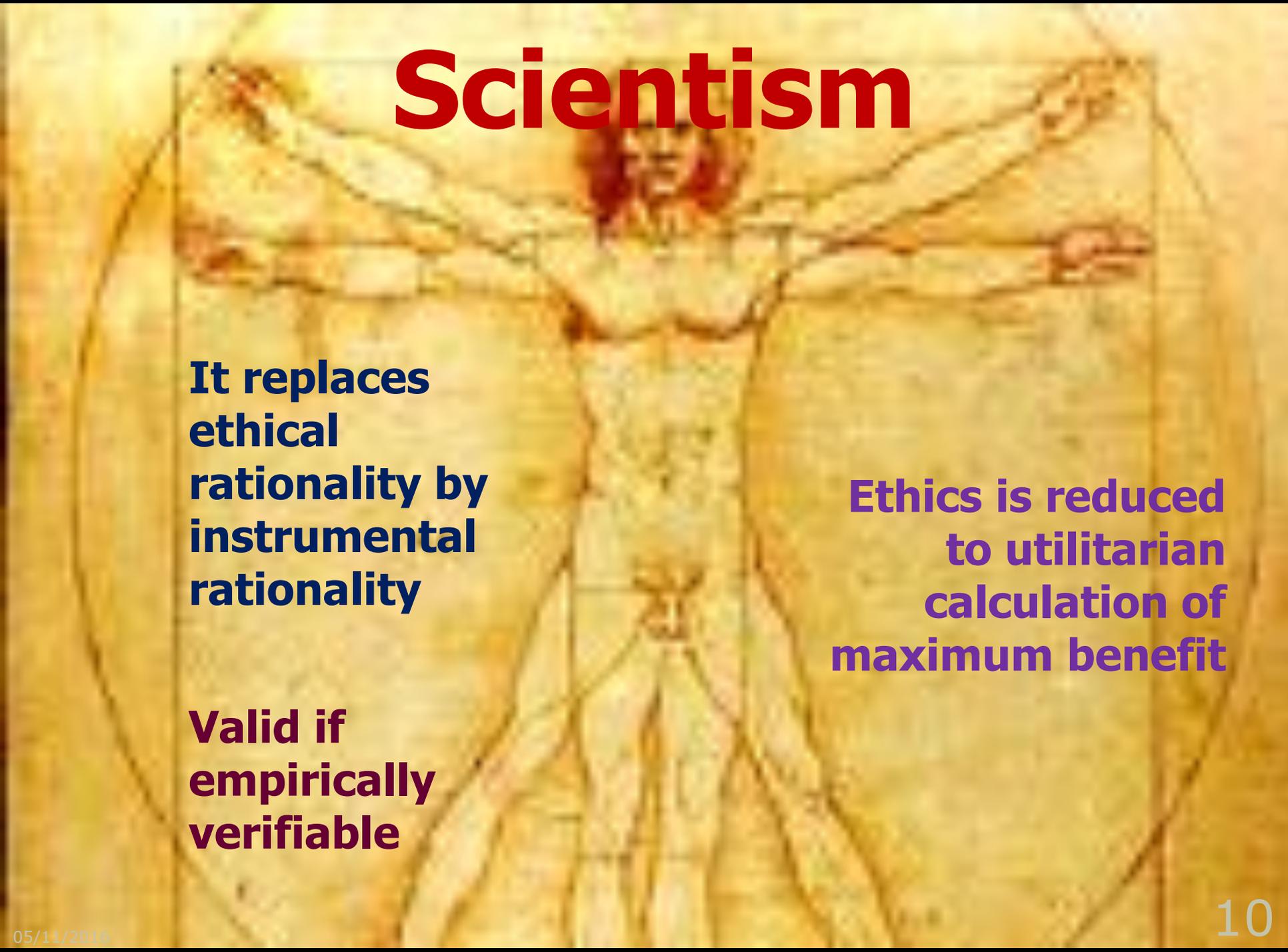
Justus Lipsius & Hugo Grotius

Based on
practical
reason (*etsi
Deus not
daretur*)

Today
shared by
believers
and non-
believers

Religion and ethics remained
confined to the private realm

Scientism



**It replaces
ethical
rationality by
instrumental
rationality**

**Valid if
empirically
verifiable**

**Ethics is reduced
to utilitarian
calculation of
maximum benefit**

The Frankfurt School



**very critical
of Scientism**

**The Nazi Holocaust: a
manifestation of the
dark side of Modernity**



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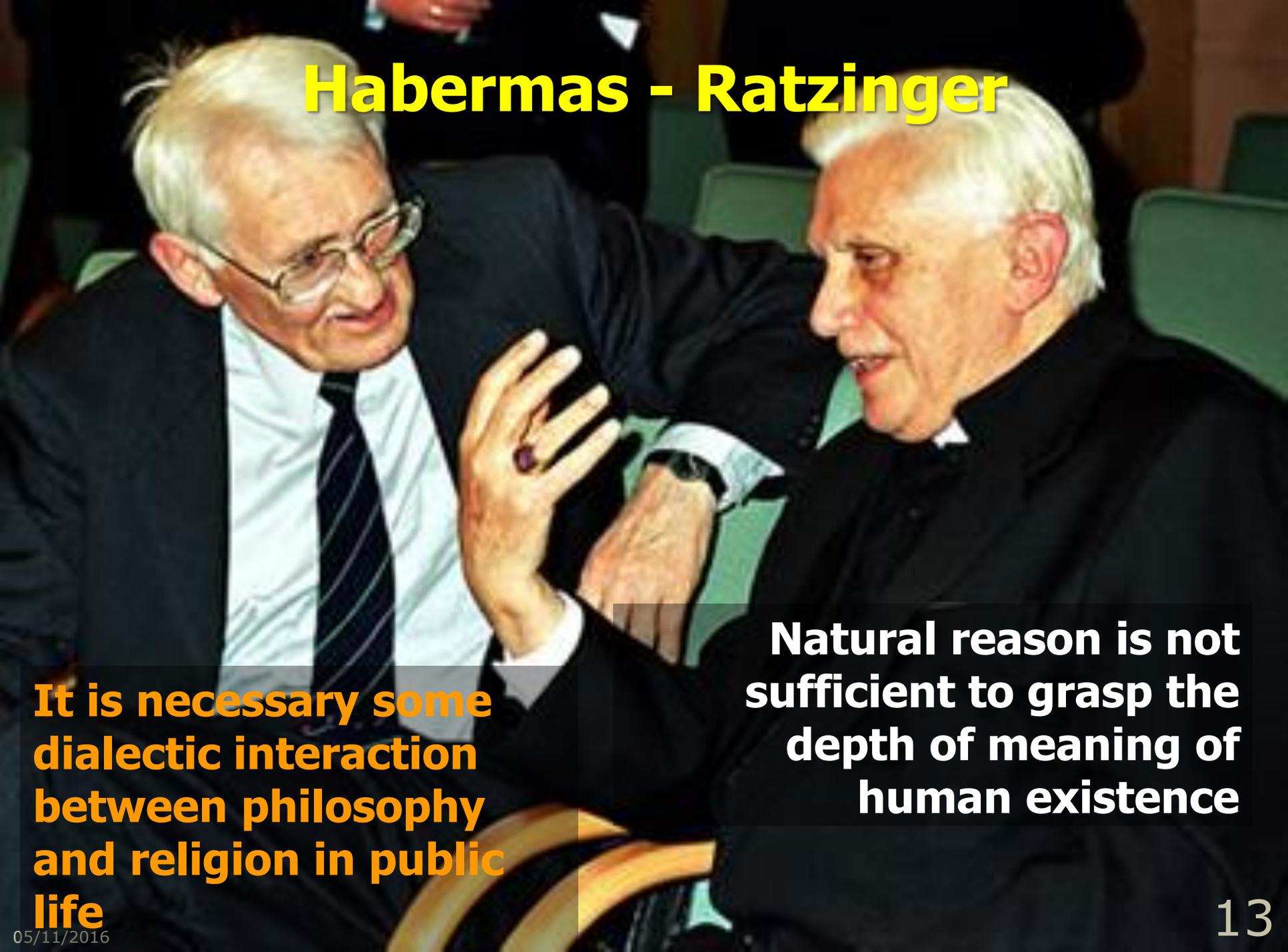
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Habermas - Ratzinger



It is necessary some dialectic interaction between philosophy and religion in public life

Natural reason is not sufficient to grasp the depth of meaning of human existence

Global ethics

- ◆ **Two groups:**

- 1. Those who lay inter-religious dialogue as a foundation (R. Panikkar, H. Küng, L. Boff)**
- 2. Those who advocate for global ethics:**
 - a) Ontological foundation for ethics (H. Jonas, K. Jaspers, D. Henrich, V. Höhle)**
 - b) New anthropological and political formulation (E. Morin, W. Huber, H.-R. Reuter, E. Lévinas)**

Interreligious dialogue

Küng: best response to the current daring challenges



Religions are the instances more capable of appealing to the man in all his dimensions ([video](#))



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**Dialogue is rooted
in the very
essence of God**



**God's self-communication presupposes a
personal recipient who can respond in freedom**

**All the official documents of the
Second Vatican Council should be
read from an ecumenical
perspective**



Vatican II: dialogue a top priority



"An intrinsic requirement of the Christological event"

"we cannot truly call on God, the Father of all, if we refuse to treat in a brotherly way any man" (NA 5)

Religion wars: an expression of immaturity

The security of faith enables witness and dialogue with all

The divine pedagogy respects the historical dimension of man and his gradual purification



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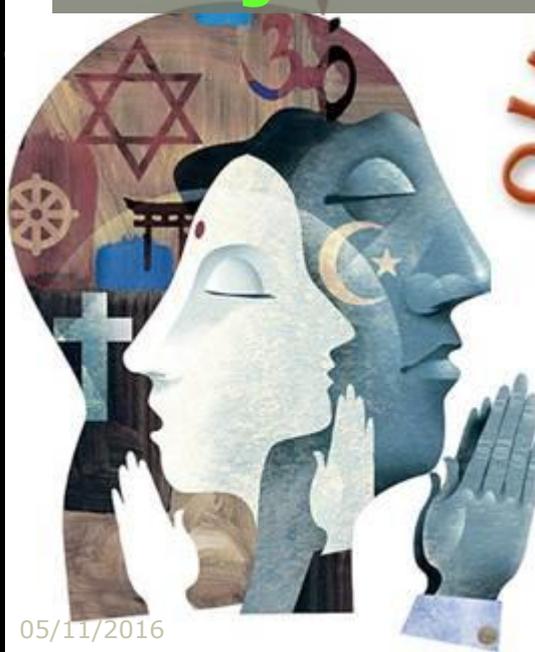
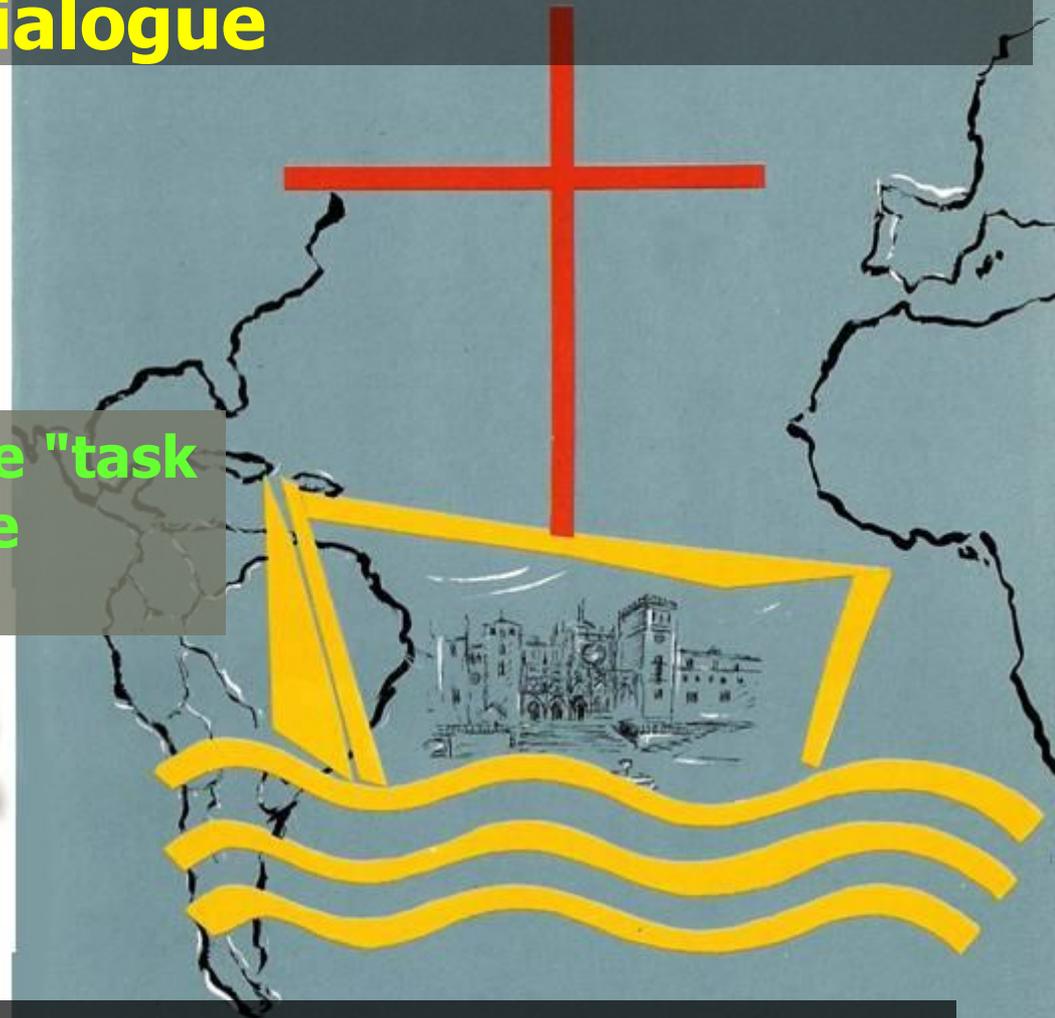
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Nostra Aetate: interreligious and intercultural dialogue



The Catholic Church has the "task of promoting unity and love among men"



"Among religions, there are points of contact, both internal and external"

Dialogue with the monotheistic religions (Islam and Judaism)

They share
with
Christians
a common
belief in
father
Abraham

“Dialogue between Christians and Muslims is a vital necessity, on which in large measure our future depends”

Interreligious dialogue: a constant concern of the post-conciliar Magisterium



**It "does not originate from self-interest"
It doesn't diminish the urgency of the mission**



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"One is the community of all peoples, one their origin; One also is their final goal, God"



God has planted the Seeds of the Word in every human being. 26

The world is watered by the *Seeds of the Word*



Christians are called to establish a "sincere and patient dialogue" with all peoples



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The Spirit of Assisi ([video](#))

The Assisi meeting (1986) was very effective in showing that peace is a priority objective for all religions

Religions can play a key role in laying the foundations of peaceful coexistence in the globalized world

Conclusion

War is big business.
We need a "mental disarmament" **from greed, hatred, prejudice...**

"Homo homini lupus"

"Since wars begin in the minds of men, **it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed"**



Religion (*re-ligare*) is devoted to build community

Through personal encounter, forgiveness and trustful relationship

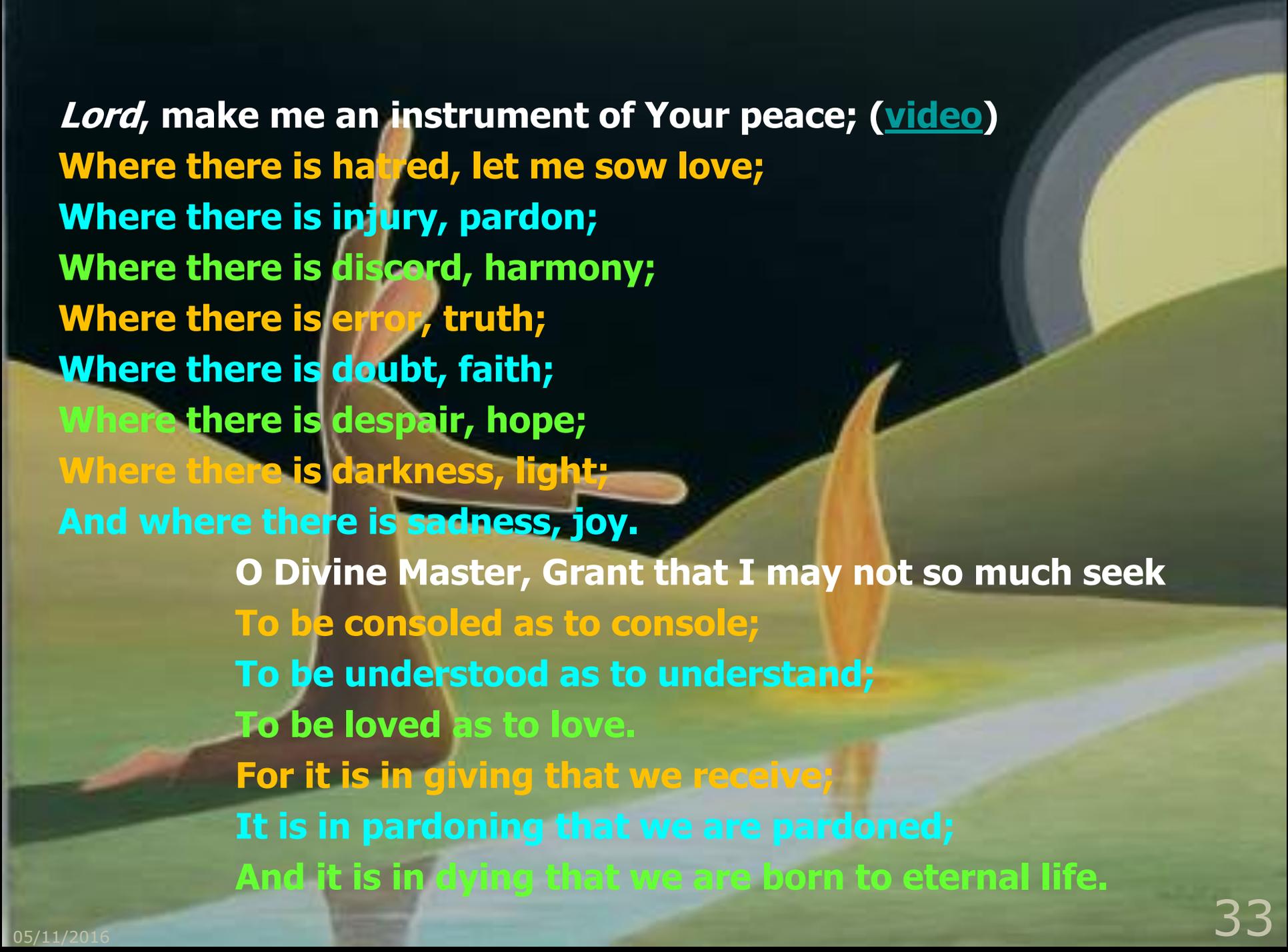
Man, "by its very nature, stands completely in need of social life" and should always be "the beginning, the subject and the goal of all social institutions" (GS 25)

Religions have a long tradition of wisdom

Renowned worldwide for their devotion to helping vulnerable people

Religions open humans to the contemplation of beauty

Even death becomes a sister...
At that solemn moment we will be examined on love



Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; ([video](#))
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, harmony;
Where there is error, truth;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Appeal signed by religious leaders (1993)

"May no hatred, no conflict, no war be kindled by religions!

May the words spoken by religions always be words of peace!

May the way of faith lead to dialogue and understanding!

May religions guide hearts to bring peace on earth!

May religions help all men and women to love the earth and its peoples both great and small!



