



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



# Our globalized world is subject to severe tensions

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

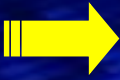
# Global Ethics

## 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Religion has withdrawn  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 portrait of Charles Taylor, an older man with grey hair and a mustache, wearing a blue shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression.

**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**

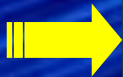
**Ethics is reduced  
to utilitarian  
calculation of  
maximum benefit**



# The Frankfurt School

**very critical  
of Scientism**

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



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# 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. Hösle)
  - 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 divine  
pedagogy  
respects the  
historical  
dimension of  
man and his  
gradual  
purification**

**The security of faith enables  
witness and dialogue with all**





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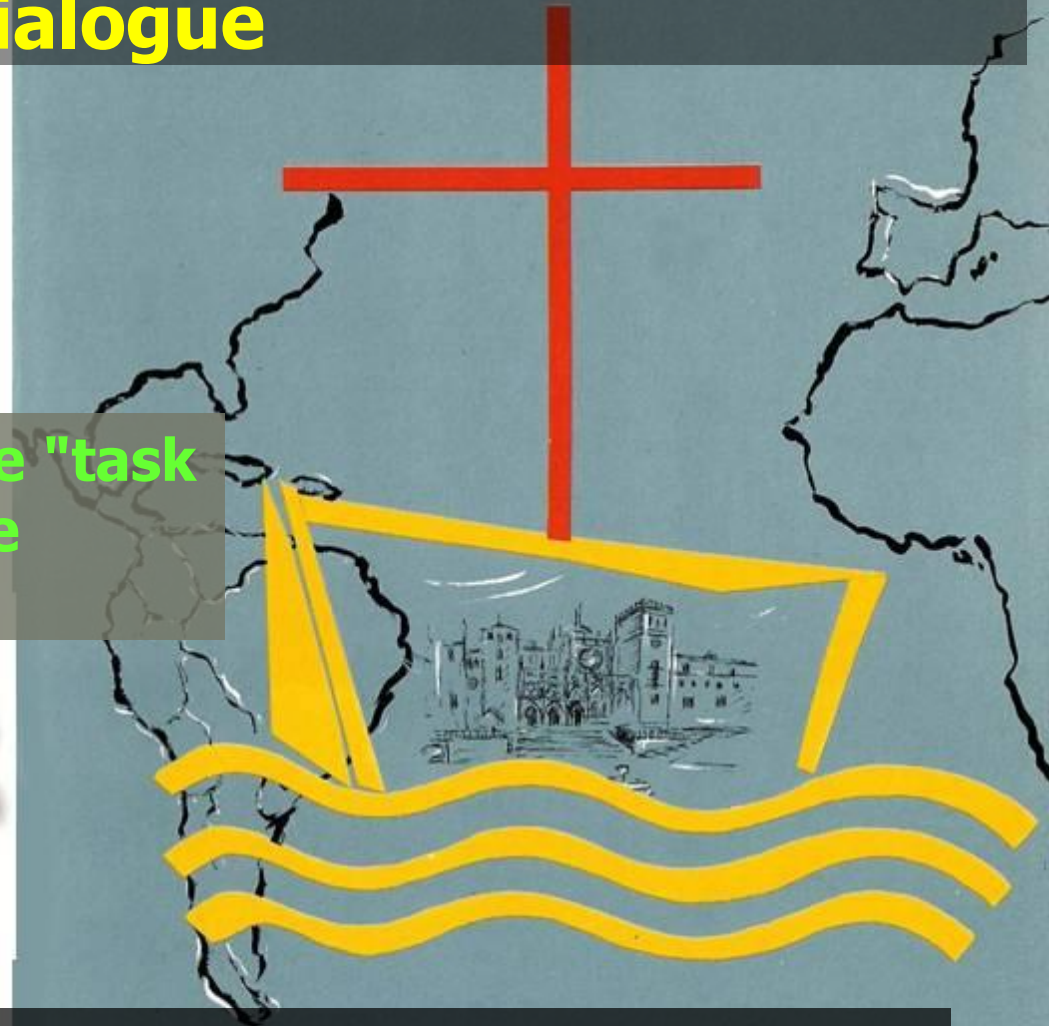
# *Nostra Aetate*: interreligious and intercultural dialogue



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)**



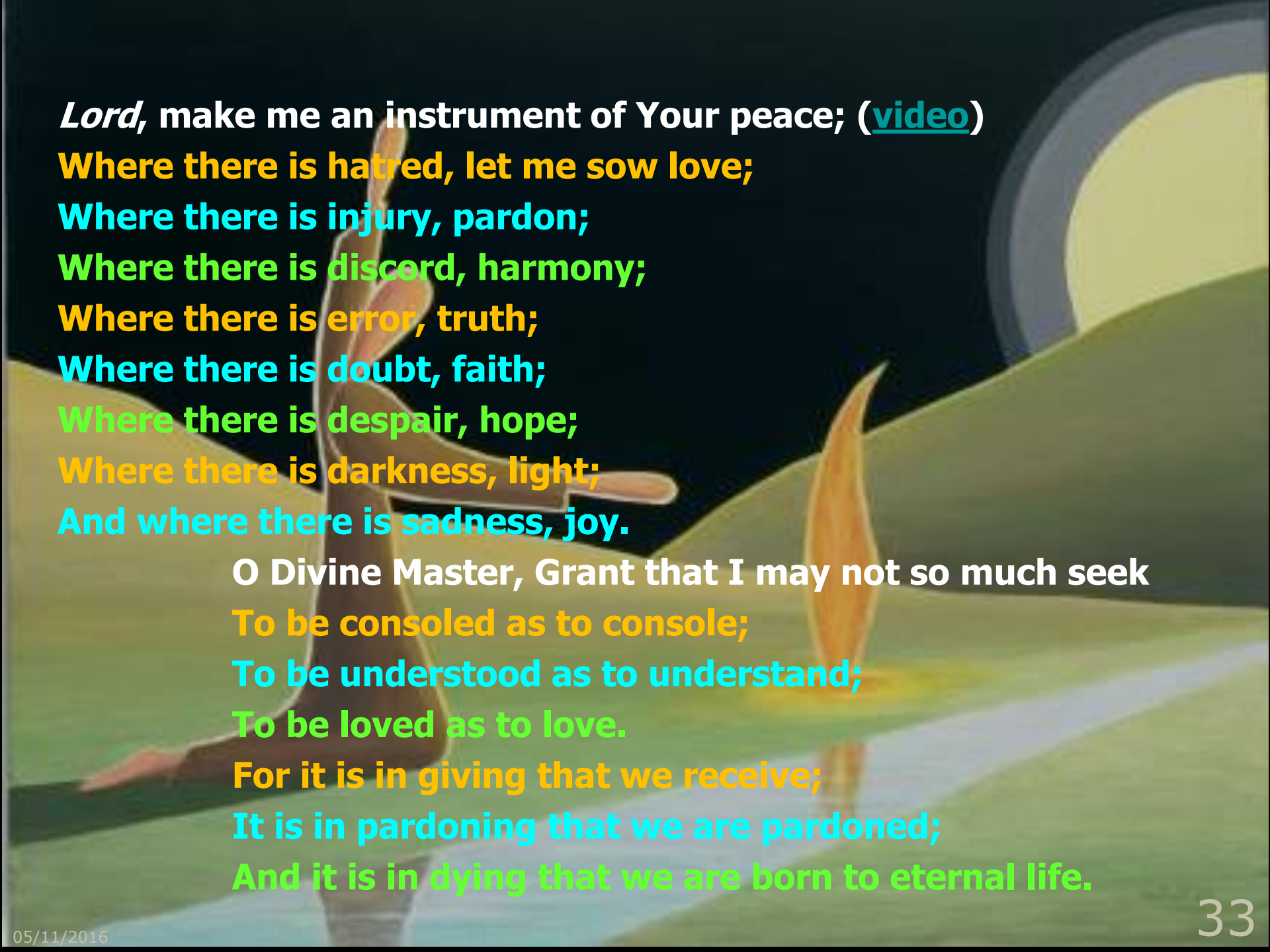
# Religions have a long tradition of wisdom

**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!**





