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“LET US PROMOTE A CULTURE OF DIALOGUE,
WE MUST DEMONSTRATE HOW RELIGIOUS BELIEF
INSPIRES PEACE, ENCOURAGES SOLIDARITY,
PROMOTES JUSTICE AND UPHOLDS FREEDOM.”
POPE JOHN PAUL II

Counting interfaith miracles
By Paul McKenna

I spend a lot of my time counting interfaith miracles. Let me explain what I mean. For some years now, I have been studying developments within the international, interfaith movement. I call these developments interfaith miracles. However, keeping track of interfaith miracles in various parts of the world is, indeed, an impossible task. The God of all wonders is blessing the world with such an abundance of interreligious miracles that no researcher can possibly keep up on top of it. Even the Internet, with its thousands of interfaith websites, cannot keep up with God’s all-important business of unity and reconciliation.

Today we are witnessing levels of conversation and cooperation among the world’s faiths that are strikingly new to history. Our shrinking global village is now a multi-religious society. I also spend a good deal of time counting interfaith miracles within the international Catholic community. But here again, the task is daunting. Who can keep abreast of the interfaith miracles that continue to abound within the global Catholic population?

Since the Second Vatican Council, an explosion of interreligious sharing and to commit ourselves to interreligious cooperation. This issue of the magazine reports upon some of these. We are particularly encouraged by interfaith activity in our overseas missions. Our many interreligious encounters are helping us to understand the Church’s teaching that interfaith dialogue is a vital function of Christian mission.

We have every reason to believe that interfaith miracles will continue to abound around the globe. Unfortunately, interreligious conflict and interreligious abuse will continue. Despite this, the interfaith impulse is alive and well. More and more people of various religions are joining the interfaith conversation. More and more people are experiencing this conversation as an occasion of faith. More and more people are seeing interreligious sharing as a path to cooperative ethical action and harmonious community living. For this, we thank the Maker of all miracles!}

Paul McKenna, Associate Coordinator of the Scarboro Missions Interfaith Desk, teaches, writes and consults in the fields of world religions and interfaith dialogue.

MORE AND MORE PEOPLE OF VARIOUS RELIGIONS ARE JOINING THE INTERFAITH CONVERSATION AND ARE EXPERIENCING THIS CONVERSATION AS AN OCCASION OF FAITH.

Thank you!

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