1962 Pope John XXIII Convokes Vatican II
In convening the Second Vatican Council, John XXIII envisions a renewal of the whole Church. Vatican Council II is now seen as a watershed event in this new openness toward Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, indigenous peoples, and others.

1964 Secretariat for Non-Christians
During the Council, Pope Paul VI establishes the Secretariat for Non-Christians as a sign and a structure of the Church’s desire to dialogue with followers of other religions. (In 1988, the Secretariat was renamed the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.)

1965 Second Vatican Council Ends
The Council produces ground-breaking documents on interreligious dialogue, religious liberty, and pluralism. In these documents, the Church recognizes and respects the presence of grace, truth, and holiness in other religions.

1967 Catholic Greetings to Muslims Worldwide
The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue sends its first annual greeting to all the world’s Muslims at the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting.

1974 Asian Bishops, Evangelization in Modern Day Asia
The bishops of Asia, where Christianity is a minority religion, publish this landmark document which argues that dialogue with all peoples, cultures, and religions is part of the Church’s mission.

1975 Synod on the Evangelization of the Modern World
The synod declaration proclaims: “We wish to foster dialogue with non-Christian religions, so that we may reach a better understanding of the Gospel’s newness and of the fullness of Revelation.”

1984 Dialogue and Christian Mission
On its 20th anniversary, the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue publishes “The Attitude of the Church Toward Followers of Other Religions: Reflections and Orientations on Dialogue and Mission”. This document places interfaith dialogue squarely within the scope of the Church’s mission.

1986 World Day of Prayer for Peace
Pope John Paul II invites leaders of world religions and of Christian denominations to Assisi, Italy, to pray and fast for world peace. In so doing, he becomes the first religious leader in history to convene such a gathering.

1995 Jesuit Interreligious Ministry
The 34th General Congregation of the Jesuit Order decides that interfaith dialogue must become a “distinctive characteristic” of Jesuit ministry worldwide.

1997-2000 Jubilee Year 2000
A general renewal of the Church leading up to and including the Jubilee Year includes a focus on interfaith dialogue, ecumenism, peace, and social justice.

1998 We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah
In a long awaited document on the Holocaust, the Church expresses repentance for those Christians who failed to oppose the Nazi persecution of the Jews.

2005 Jewish Leaders Thank John Paul II
From around the world, 160 Jewish leaders travel to the Vatican to thank Pope John Paul for his extraordinary efforts in promoting Jewish-Catholic dialogue.

2006 Pope Benedict XVI Prays in Turkish Mosque
During his trip to Damascus, Syria, John Paul II becomes the first Pope to visit and pray in a mosque.

2000 First Papal Visit to Israel
During Pope John Paul II’s historic visit to Israel, he visits Judaism’s holiest site, the Western Wall of the ancient temple, and offers a prayer of forgiveness “for those who have caused these children to suffer.”

2008 Muslim-Catholic Relations
In response to a letter from 138 Muslim scholars, Pope Benedict XVI approves the establishment of the Catholic-Muslim Forum, which brings together Vatican officials and Muslim scholars.

Catholic Milestones in Interfaith Dialogue

To order poster, contact Scarboro Missions, 2685 Kingston Road, Toronto, ON, Canada, M4M 1M4. 1-800-260-4815.

www.scarboromissions.ca