

Our Elder Brothers & Sisters Foundation Inc.

1177 Kane Concourse, Suite 112 Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154
Ph: 305.785.7028 • 305.861.4740
www.ourelderbrothers.org
bbenes@ourelderbrothers.org

March 30, 2009

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bernardo Benes - President and CEO
Tony Lopez-Ibanez - Vice President
Denis Kleinfeld - Secretary
Octavio Verdeja - Treasurer
Dr. Raul Moncarz - Director of Education
Salomon Kassin
Ambler H. Moss, Jr.

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

His Eminence Jorge Cardinal Mejia
His Eminence Cardinal William H. Keeler
Dr. Eugene J. Fisher
Rabbi David Rosen
Thomas Wenski, Bishop of Orlando
Jerzy Kluger
US Senator Richard D. Stone - D-FL (Retired)
Rabbi Eric J. Greenberg
Rabbi Emeritus Solomon Schiff
Rabbi Emeritus Mayer Abramowitz
David Lawrence Jr.
Rabbi Ron Kronish
Samuel H. Miller
Rev. Msgr. James F. Checchio
Marcos Kerbel

Your Eminences/Your Excellencies:

As you may be aware, the last several weeks have witnessed significant strains in the relationship of Jews with the Catholic Church in connection with Pope Benedict XVI's lifting of the ban of excommunication against four bishop members of the Society of St. Pius X. On February 12th of this year, the Holy Father met with Jews in Rome again to condemn Holocaust denial as a form of anti-Semitism. He remarked then: "It is beyond question that any denial or minimization of this terrible crime is intolerable and altogether unacceptable."

At the same meeting, the Holy Father announced his intention to visit Israel this coming May as a pilgrim to the holiest of sites in our two faiths. By this visit, he intends to reaffirm the lasting nature of the reforms made between the Catholic Church and Jews, as begun by his predecessor, Pope John Paul II. As a result, it seems timely to remind Catholics and Jews throughout our country of the significant progress that has been made so far between our faith communities and to invite them to follow closely the Pope's upcoming visit as a symbol of this renewed relationship.

The *Our Elder Brothers and Sisters Foundation*, named after the famous phrase in Pope John Paul II's address to the Jewish community during his historic visit to the Great Synagogue of Rome, is dedicated to perpetuating and promoting the teaching of Pope John Paul II about Jews and Judaism. With this letter, its

Our Elder Brothers & Sisters Foundation Inc.

1177 Kane Concourse, Suite 112 Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154
Ph: 305.785.7028 • 305.861.4740
www.ourelderbrothers.org
bbenes@ourelderbrothers.org

President, Dr. Bernardo Benes, is offering to supply every diocese in the United States with hard copies of an attractive brochure which distills papal teaching on this topic. It is hoped that you will send a copy of this brochure to every priest in your diocese. Attached to this letter is an electronic copy of the brochure for your review, available in both English and Spanish. The brochure and its contents have been warmly recommended by Bishop Richard Sklba, immediate past chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

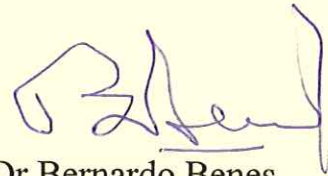
Hard copies of these brochures will be supplied to you *gratis* and in whatever number you may wish for distribution to your priests. We hope that you will take advantage of this generous offer of the *Our Elder Brothers and Sisters Foundation*. You may place your order either by e-mail at bbenes@ourelderbrothersandsisters.org, phone (305-785-7028) or surface mail:

Our Elder Brothers and Sisters Foundation, Inc.
1171 Kane Concourse
Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33145

Yours in *Pax* and *Shalom*,



Cardinal William H. Keeler
Episcopal Moderator,
Catholic-Jewish Relations
USCCB



Dr. Bernardo Benes
President
*Our Elder Brothers and
Sisters Foundation, Inc.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bernardo Benes - President and CEO

Tony Lopez-Ibanez - Vice President

Denis Kleinfeld - Secretary

Octavio Verdeja - Treasurer

Dr. Raul Moncarz - Director of Education

Salomon Kassin

Ambler H. Moss, Jr.

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

His Eminence Jorge Cardinal Mejía

His Eminence Cardinal William H. Keeler

Dr. Eugene J. Fisher

Rabbi David Rosen

Thomas Wenski, Bishop of Orlando

Jerzy Kluger

US Senator Richard D. Stone - D-FL (Retired)

Rabbi Eric J. Greenberg

Rabbi Emeritus Solomon Schiff

Rabbi Emeritus Mayer Abramowitz

David Lawrence Jr.

Rabbi Ron Kronish

Samuel H. Miller

Rev. Msgr. James F. Checchio

Marcos Kerbel