

COMMISSION  
FOR RELIGIOUS RELATIONS WITH THE JEWS  
Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

23 November, 2007

J. 197 12007

Mr Bernardo Benes  
President & CEO  
Our Elder Brothers and Sisters Foundation, Inc.  
2350 Coral Way, Suite 301  
MIAMI FL 33145 USA

Dear Mr Benes,

I write further to your letter of 7 November 2007 following the Catholic-Jewish Lay Conference held in Rome last month.

I am honoured by your invitation to become a member of the Advisory Board of OUR ELDER BROTHERS AND SISTERS FOUNDATION, which aims to raise awareness of the enduring legacy of Pope John Paul II as an architect of the rediscovered brotherhood of Jews and Christians. Indeed, by addressing the Jewish people as our 'elder brothers' John Paul II embraced the depth of the aspirations of the historical declaration *Nostra aetate*. The ongoing dialogue between Jews and Christians based on the mutual respect of our respective religious identities and our shared patrimony is a concern that has been equally nurtured by Pope Benedict XVI, and continues to be the cornerstone of the work of our own COMMISSION FOR RELIGIOUS RELATIONS WITH THE JEWS.

Mindful of this, it is with regret that due to my extensive commitments I am unable to take on any other responsibilities at this point. I extend my heartfelt prayer that the FOUNDATION may respond sensitively to the need for deeper consciousness of the unique bond between Jews and Christians, and the responsibilities this bond demands in the modern world.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Walter Cardinal Kasper

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President