

30 Things Everyone Should Know about Our Foundation

1. We are a Jewish-Catholic organization.
2. Our Interfaith Dialogue is accompanied with action on education
3. Our mission is very clear and simple: To make sure that the world does not forget that John Paul II was the hero of the reconciliation of Catholic and Jews.
4. The Anti Defamation League (ADL) and the American Jewish Committee have senior members on our Advisory Committee and we have developed specific programs with them.
5. During our trip to the Vatican we met with many senior members of the Roman Catholic Curia. We were treated with outmost respect.
6. Our budget is wisely managed and is very limited.
7. Two Cardinals, one Bishop and the Rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome are members of our Advisory Board, not just in name but they really advise us when requested.
8. One of the most respected Catholic scholars in the world on this subject is our Senior Advisor and my "personal" mentor. Dr. Eugene J. Fisher. For over 30 years he directed the Inter-religious Department at the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. He was the only US citizen who is a Consultor of the Pope in relation with the Jews. Dr. Fisher stated that: "WE FOUND A NICHE" no one is covering. We are a grass root organization

9. A Mass at the Miami Cathedral was held on September 17, 2006 by The Most Reverend John C. Favalora Archbishop of Miami in honor of John Paul II as the hero of reconciliation between Catholic and Jews
10. On January 11, 2007 Archbishop Favalora visited Temple Emanu-El on Miami Beach in commemoration of the visit John Paul II to the Great Synagogue in Rome in 1986.
11. For the first time in the history of Miami a Cardinal visited a Synagogue, Temple Beth Shalom, on May 13, 2008. The visit commemorated the date in 1986 when John Paul II visited the Great Synagogue of Rome. (In the three events above the co-Sponsors were the ADL, AJC, the Archdiocese of Miami, the Miami CCJ & the Rabbinical Association of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation)
12. In October, 2007 Dr. Raul Moncarz, Director of Education for our foundation, and I participated as delegates to the First Conference of Catholic and Jewish leaders of the United States at the Vatican. In addition to attending all the meetings of the conference we met with very important members of the Catholic hierarchy at the Vatican. [Click here](#) to read a full report on our website.
13. We have worked with two Catholic Seminaries in South Florida to include studies of John Paul II and the Jews.
14. We plan to open a local John Paul II team of Reconciliation in each of the 75 Catholic Seminaries and 6 Jewish Seminaries in the US. The plan was approved during a luncheon meeting held recently at the residence in Baltimore of Cardinal William H. Keeler, Archbishop Emeritus of Baltimore and a legend as a friend of the Jews. Both the Conservative

and Reform rabbis movements were represented at this meeting. The ADL is very interested in doing the work in those 30 areas where they have an office. This idea came to us after we had two meetings at the Vatican with two different Cardinals who told us the following: "The Vatican is against all injustices, including anti-Semitism, but it would not be honest if we didn't tell you that there are Catholic priests who are anti-Semitic." It is a problem of education. After those two experiences it is obvious that we have to concentrate on educating seminarians, both Catholic and Jewish.

15. We are constantly distributing our Brochure "John Paul II and the Jews." In Miami, in Sept. we distributed 300,000 brochures in English and Spanish. The ADL requested us to send 300 brochures to Phoenix for distribution nationally at their Bearing Witness program.
16. We met recently in Palm Beach, at the National Convention of the ADL, with Rabbi Eric Greenberg the National Director of Interreligious Activities and a member of our Board of Advisors. He is setting up a meeting with Dr. Ed. Alster, the Director of Education, who is very enthused to include our program in their educational effort.
17. We have communicated with Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland, for the printing of 20,000 brochures in Polish - we sent him a couple of copies.
18. At present Dr. Fisher is editing two books he has written on John Paul II and the Jews to be used by seminarians in the world, starting with the US. We have not budgeted the cost of this.

19. On April 1, 2008 we were invited to be a speaker at the annual dinner in Orlando of PAPA- Polish American Priest Association. All of the priests present received our brochures in English and Polish. I will try to recruit them to expand our program thru the US. Some have contacted us to ask for more brochures.
20. The National Association of Brandeis Women has shown interest in our Program. We will speak to them in October.
21. All human relation Jewish organizations are doing an excellent job- ADL, AJC, Wisenthal Center and others. On the other hand, world anti-Semitism is rising- Jonathan Sacks Chief Rabbi of London recently said: "There is a TSUNAMI of anti-Semitism in the world." Everyone we get in contact with tells us that we are playing an important role by going to the masses. I include in this very specifically His Eminence Jorge Cardinal Mejia, a close friend and associate of John Paul II.
22. Although ours is a private foundation we have consulted with the last and present Consuls of the State of Israel in Miami and both considered this to be a very important program: "We need friends."
23. In addition we have received from the Atlanta offices of the Ministry of Tourism of Israel sufficient DVD's of the visit of John Paul II visit to Israel in 2000. We will distribute them, together with other documents to all US Seminaries, both, Catholic and Jewish. The most important document we have found on this subject is the small paper John Paul II inserted a prayer in the Western Wall. We have printed it. When we have resources we will distribute this simple paper of 58 words to billions of people, YES, it is not a mistake I typed BILLIONS! This is what we

mean when we speak of going to the masses of the world. Unfortunately the majority of people don't know that John Paul II was the hero of the Reconciliation between Catholics and Jews. Promoting this is what Dr. Fisher calls our niche.

24. As a matter of principle and personal ethics, our policy is not to duplicate any efforts other organizations are doing. It would be "a waste" from a community point of view.
25. We have received very complimentary testimonials from very respectable Rabbis, both local as well as international. Rabbi David Rosen, International VP for Interreligious Affairs of the AJC with offices in Jerusalem. I probably consult more with Rabbi Rosen than any other. He is very smart, efficient, experienced and willing to help us on any action we want to take in the Miami area.

Among others who help us:

- ✠ Rabbi Mayer Abramowitz- Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Menorah Miami Beach
- ✠ Rabbi Gary Glckstein of Temple Beth Sholom, Miami Beach
- ✠ Rabbi Ed Farber of Beth Torah Congregation among others.

On the Catholic side we have also received complimentary testimonies from our members of the Board of Advisors:

- ✠ Cardinal Jorge MarÃa MejÃa, Librarian, Vatican Library

- ✠• Cardinal William Henry Keeler, Archbishop Emeritus of Baltimore

- ✠• The Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, Bishop of Orlando and a friend of decades

- ✠• Reverend Monsignor. James F. Checchio, Rector of the Pontifical North American College “ Rome

All of them have been consulted at one time or another. Their experience is very valuable to us and we feel very satisfied to consult with them.

26. We have contacted members of the US Congress to promote the task force against anti-Semitism that was created by the late Congressman Thomas Lantos when he was Chairman of the Human Rights Commission. When we are ready for this program we will coordinate with others. Again, we will not duplicate what others do.

27. We are constantly researching all material on John Paul II and the Jews. We have a library, We buy books to give out to people and we keep current our website where you can find this information (www.ourelderbrothers.org)

28. We were invited by the President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to attend an inter-religious meeting that took place in Washington, D.C. on April 17, 2008 with His Holiness Benedict XVI. I attended as President of the Foundation. To us this meeting was very humbling.

29. We are preparing a vast program to work with Catholic and Jewish Seminaries, Universities and High Schools. It is a very ambitious and also an achievable program.

30. Finally, I feel exceptional happy with the first accomplishments of our Foundation. Many of you are responsible for it through your support of our work. For this I thank you. I hope that next year we will be able to send you a report that shows continued progress.