

## Dialogue Interreligieux Monastique



## Monastic Interreligious Dialogue

### YEAR END REPORT

2017

Two events stand out in the current year: A dialogue on “Unity of God – Unity in God” with Shi’a Muslims that was held in Kenya September 2-7, and a Catholic-Buddhist dialogue “Walking Together on the Path of Non-Violence” that was held in Taiwan November 12-16. The former dialogue was sponsored by DIMMID, the latter by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID).

Since my report on the meeting in Nairobi appears in the current volume of *Dilatato Corde*, there is no need to repeat it here. I would only emphasize that this was the first interreligious meeting sponsored by DIMMID to take place in Africa, and I see it as a major step forward in forming a commission of DIMMID on that continent.

As for the meeting in Taiwan, the PCID asked me to invite some Asian Catholic monastic women to take part. Three Korean Missionary Benedictine Sisters accepted the invitation, one of whom, Sister Scholastica Park, presented a paper on “The Rule of St. Benedict and the Path of Healing.” I gave a short paper on Thomas Merton, focusing on his writings on non-violence

Following the meeting, the *Chargé d'affaires* at the Apostolic Nunciature in Taipei, the Undersecretary of the PCID, the three sisters, and I met with three Taiwanese Buddhist nuns from Fo Guang Shan Monastery to plan for a meeting of Catholic and Buddhist nuns in Taiwan next year. Twenty-five Buddhist and twenty-five Catholic nuns will be invited to participate in a week-long meeting (October 13=20, 2018) at Fo Guang Shan. The topic, still to be refined and fleshed out, is “Contemplative Action and Active Contemplation: Buddhist and Christian Nuns in Dialogue.”

The PCID will invite ten Buddhist and ten Catholics nuns to participate in this gathering. It is asking DIMMID to help plan for this meeting and to recruit fifteen Catholic nuns. With the approval of its Board of Directors, DIMMID will offer financial assistance to help cover the travel expenses of the the fifteen nuns it invites. Fo Guang Shan will cover the expenses of the meeting itself, including the participants’ room and board.

In 2018 it is likely that two Benedictine monks will receive their doctorates in the area of interreligious dialogue: Fr. Maximilian Musindai (Tigoni, Kenya) from the Pontifical Institute for Studies in Arabic and Islam, and Fr. Jaechan Anselmo Park (Waegwan, Korea) from Regis College of the University of Toronto. Fr. Anselmo is writing his dissertation on Thomas Merton’s contribution to the monastic and contemplative expressions of interreligious dialogue. I have been and will be working with them to prepare the final drafts of their dissertations. With the approval of their communities, they hope to work for the establishment of DIMMID commissions in Africa and South Korea and to contribute to setting the course of DIMMID in the coming year. Both are now at-large members of the Board of Directors.

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Secretary General