UNITY OF GOD; UNITY IN GOD
Monks and Muslims in Dialogue

Subiaco Center
Missionary Benedictine Sisters
Windy Ridge 181, Karen-Nairobi, Kenya
+254 712 764 978

September 2 – 7, 2017
(Salat times for each day on the final page)

SEPTEMBER 2, SATURDAY
7:00   (Lauds & Mass)
7:45   Breakfast
8:30-9:30   Welcome, information, introductions
9:30-10:30  Four short presentations:
            “Unity of God”  Fr. Benoît Standaert
            Dr. Mohammad Ali Shomali
            “Unity in God”  Sr. Markline Naturinda
            Dr. Mohammad Ali Shomali
10:30-11:00  Tea break
11:00-12:30  Plenary discussion, introduced by the presenters
12:45   (Midday Prayer)
13:00   Lunch
15:00   Discussion groups

Suggested questions for discussion:

- What are the central elements of my belief in God?
- How does my belief affect the way I live my life—my prayer, my relation to other people?
- Is there anything about my belief in God that might not be shared by others in my own religious tradition?

[Note: The main purpose of the small group and plenary discussions now and throughout the conference is to sharpen our awareness of how those we are in dialogue with this week understand/believe in God and how that faith shapes their lives and, in particular, their understanding and practice of interreligious dialogue.]

16:00   Tea break
16:30-17:45  Discussion groups continue
18:00   (Vespers)
19:00   Dinner
20:00-21:15  Plenary discussion on issues that have emerged in the discussion groups
SEPTEMBER 3, SUNDAY

6:55  (Lauds)
7:30  (Mass)
Breakfast
9:15  Discussion groups

**Suggested questions for discussion:**

- *What are the teachings/passage on the unity of all peoples in the sacred scriptures and traditions of my religion that I especially find to be supportive of a positive attitude toward other religious traditions?*
- *What are the teachings/passage on religious identity in the sacred scriptures and traditions of my religion that would seem to suggest that I should oppose other religious traditions?*
- *In practice, what does it mean for me to be “in dialogue” with people whose beliefs and practices differ from my own?*

10:00  Tea Break
10:30  Discussion groups continue
12:00  (Midday Prayer)
12:30  Lunch
13:45  Transportation to the Jaffery Islamic Centre of Nairobi
15:00-18:00  Interreligious program and reception
18:00  (Vespers)
19:00  Dinner
19:45  (Compline)

SEPTEMBER 4, MONDAY

5:30  (Lauds/Meditation/Lectio Divina)
7:00  (Mass)
7:30  Breakfast
8:15  Transportation to the Apostolic Nunciature in Kenya and the Chancery Office of the Archdiocese of Nairobi
9:30  Visit to the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo
11:00  Visit to the Auxiliary Bishop of Nairobi, the Most Rev. David Kamau Ng’ang’a
12:30  Lunch
13:30  Transportation to Tangaza U.
14:30 – 16:30  Catholic Public Event at Tangaza University College
CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM DIALOGUE IN KENYA
Department Head of the Mission and Islamic Department
Welcome: Rev. Prof. Stephen Mbungua Ngari
Vice Chancellor Designate
Paper:
“Some Aspects on the Status of Christian – Muslim Dialogue in Kenya
Dr. Newton Kahumbi Maina, Ph.D
Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies
Kenyatta University, Nairobi
Discussion.

17:00  Visit to the Benedictine House of Studies
19:00  Supper
19:45  (Compline)

SEPTEMBER 5, TUESDAY
5:30  (Lauds/Meditation/Lectio Divina)
7:00  (Mass)
7:30  Breakfast
8:30  Presentation: Dr. Mohammad Ali Shomali
     “The Appearance of the Twelfth and Final Imam, Muhammad al-Mahd, and
     the Return of Jesus in Muslim Eschatology”
10:00  Tea Break
10:30  Discussion groups
12:30  Lunch
13:30  Transportation to Tangaza U.
14:30-16:30  Catholic Public Event at Tangaza University College
             MONKS AND MUSLIMS IN DIALOGUE
             a. Chair: Fr. William Skudlarek, Secretary General, Monastic Interreligious
                Dialogue
             b. Welcome: Abbot Primate Gregory Polan
             c. Excerpt on Monastic-Muslim Dialogue from the film “Strangers no More”
                (15 minutes)
             d. The distinctive features of Benedictine monasticism and Shi’a Islam.
                i. Benedictine: Sr. Lorraine Victorsen
                ii. Shi’a: Dr Mahnaz Heydarpour
             e. The main characteristics of our dialogue. Fr. Maximilian Musindai
             f. What we have learned from this dialogue over the years. What we see as
                the principal challenges and hopes for the future. A conversation
                between Dr. Mohammad Ali Shomali and Abbot Timothy Wright
             g. Questions, comments, discussion.
18:00  (Vespers)
19:00  Supper

September 6, Wednesday
5:30  (Lauds/Meditation)
6:45  (Mass)
7:30  Breakfast
8:30  Presentation: Fr. Benoît Standaert
     “Jesus and the Trinity in Christian Iconography”
10:00  Tea Break
10:30  Evaluation of the present gathering and planning for the future
13:00  Lunch
14:00  Visit to the Focolare Community of Kenya (optional)
18:00  (Vespers + Compline)
19:00  Supper

September 7, Thursday
6:10  (Lauds & Bible sharing)
7:30 Breakfast
8:30 Visit to Prince of Peace Benedictine Monastery (Tigoni)
     Return to Karen in mid-afternoon
18:00 (Vespers + Mass)
19:00 Dinner
19:45 (Compline)
18:00 Meeting of the African delegates to discuss the future of DIMMID in Africa.

PARTICIPANTS
An asterisk (*) indicates those who have participated in a previous meeting

Monastic Participants
1. Abbot Primate Gregory Polan (Italy/United States)
2. *Abbot Notker Wolf (Germany)
3. *Abbot Timothy Wright (England)
4. *Fr. William Skudlarek (United States)
5. *Fr. Benoît Standaert (Belgium)
6. *Fr. Maximilian Musindai (Kenya)
7. *Sr. Lorraine Victorsen (Australia)
8. Prior Sylvanus Kessy (Tanzania)
9. Fr. Victor Chavunga (South Africa [Malawi])
10. Fr. Damian Danladi (Nigeria)
11. Sr. Lusina Cheptoo (Kenya)
12. Fr. Athanase Mancabou (Senegal)
13. Sr. Markline Naturinda (Uganda)
14. Fr. John Baptist Oese, guest participant (Prior, Tigoni Monastery, Kenya)
15. *Dr. Corinna Muehlstedt, media observer (Germany/Italy)

Muslim Participants
1. *Dr Mohammad Ali Shomali (Hawzah Ilmiyyah of England [from Iran])
2. *Dr Mahnaz Heydarpour (Hawzah Ilmiyyah of England [from Iran])
3. *Dr Mohsen Javadi (University of Qum)
4. *Ms. Fatima Ali (Montreal)
5. Sheikh Mohammad Hossein Khoddami (International Institute for Islamic Studies, Qum)
6. Dr Gholamreza Raeisian (Ferdowsi University, Mashhad)
7. Miss Israa Safieddine (Hawzah Ilmiyyah of England [from US])
8. Miss Shahnafe Safieddine (Hawzah Ilmiyyah of England [from US])
9. Mrs Nasim Walji Pirmohamed (Birmingham [UK and Kenya])
10. Miss Masoumeh Vethaghati (Jamiat al-Zahra, Qum)
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