

MEDIA RELEASE

# MILESTONES IN MODERN CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS

August 15, 2013

As the beginning of another school year quickly approaches, Scarboro Mission's Interfaith Department is pleased to announce an exciting new expansion of one of its significant interfaith resources, "**Milestones in Modern Catholic-Jewish Relations**".

Compiled by Sister Lucy Thorson (of the Sisters of Sion) and Dr. Murray Watson, the "Milestones" highlight more than two dozen major events over the last 70 years, which illustrate the striking change that has taken place in the interaction between the Catholic and Jewish communities since the Second World War. Beginning with the historic 1947 Seelisberg Conference (and its landmark "Ten Points" regarding Christian teaching about Judaism), and continuing right up to the papacy of Pope Francis, the Milestones focus on the growth and deepening of that relationship, and the significant healing that has been taking place between Jews and Christians.

The Milestones initiative is made up on three components, which are available at [http://www.scarboromissions.ca/Interfaith\\_dialogue/catholic\\_jewish\\_relations.php](http://www.scarboromissions.ca/Interfaith_dialogue/catholic_jewish_relations.php)). These three features are:

- **a Web document**, which provides brief summaries of each of the Milestones, together with live Internet links to the full text of the documents referenced, or video of the events described. This Web site is also illustrated with photos of many key moments in that development;
- the Milestones in **downloadable PDF (Adobe Acrobat) format**, suitable for printing and distribution to classes or small groups;
- **an accompanying Powerpoint (PPS) presentation** with photos, which can be easily downloaded

The Web document and the PDF handouts are also available in French ( [https://www.scarboromissions.ca/Interfaith\\_dialogue/catholic\\_jewish\\_relations\\_fr.php](https://www.scarboromissions.ca/Interfaith_dialogue/catholic_jewish_relations_fr.php) ), and the PDF will be available soon in Hebrew as well. **These materials are provided by Scarboro entirely free of cost.**

As the fiftieth anniversary of Vatican II's landmark declaration on the Catholic relationship to other faiths (*Nostra Aetate*) approaches in 2015, the Scarboro Interfaith department hopes that these new materials can enable the public to become more aware of the dramatic progress of the last 70 years. These materials have been designed to be of use to a variety of different audiences:

- to high school religion teachers (especially those teaching a world religions curriculum, or discussing Judaism and its relationship to Christianity), for use in their classrooms;
- to university and college professors and their students;
- to leaders of adult education or faith-sharing groups in churches or synagogues;

- to local or regional interfaith groups or organizations dedicated to promoting interreligious collaboration and mutual understanding;
- to individuals (both Jews and Christians) who seek to delve more deeply into contemporary Catholic teaching about Jews and Judaism.

The Milestones project seeks to share the “good news” of these developments with a broader audience, to encourage local groups to celebrate this heritage and build upon this foundation.

We hope that many individuals, classes and groups will take advantage of these materials and use them in creative ways, to foster the mutual respect and knowledge that the Church encourages. We would be very happy to hear how you use them in your particular setting, and how they have been helpful to you.

If you have any questions about the Milestones, please contact **Sister Lucy Thorson NDS** at the Scarboro Missions Interfaith Department, by phone at [416-261-7135 Ext 244](tel:416-261-7135), or by e-mail at [lthorson@scarboromissions.ca](mailto:lthorson@scarboromissions.ca)