



2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Peace Center Lahore, Pakistan

125-B, Pak Arab Housing Scheme, Ferozpur Road, Lahore 54760 Pakistan

www.peacecenter.org.pk

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1: Message from Fr. James Channan OP

Director, Peace Center

It is with great pleasure that we have compiled the annual report of the activities of Peace Center for the year 2024. It is a comprehensive report of the programs, conferences, workshops which have taken place. Interreligious Dialogue is very important mission of Church and also of our Dominican Order around the globe and Pakistan. By engaging in interreligious we respect religious freedom and practices of all religions. Such kinds of dialogue among religions helps the partners to engage and promote human dignity, human rights and equal citizenship. Moreover, such kinds of encounters help to defuse religious tensions and create a culture of peace and peaceful co-existence.

Peace Center keeps on working to bring positive change in our Pakistani society. This is done through organizing seminars, conferences, workshops and publications. We have organized several interfaith events all around the year in which religious leaders, human rights activists, youth, families, lawyers and government officials have participated. Some very important national and international days have also been observed and celebrated. We have very regularly updated our website www.peacecenter.org.pk to share our activities with rest of the world. From time to time the reports of our interfaith activities are published in various newspapers and magazines as well as on electronic media. Although, at times we are faced with challenges such as of extremism and discrimination in the name of religion, but we never give up and always carry on our mission with the hope that things will change and there will be positive change in our society. Myself as Executive Director of Peace Center have participated in several local, national and international conferences on the theme of interfaith harmony, Religious Freedom and Religious Responsibility, and Peacemaking in a destabilized world.

One of our very important priorities is Christian Faith Formation through interreligious dialogue and especially Christian-Muslim dialogue. We keep on emphasizing this aspect of our aims and objectives. It is very important that Christians in Pakistan have very strong faith formation and that they are able to proclaim and defend their faith. For this purpose, seminars and workshops are organized for the youth and Christian families. And our Christian community members and especially youth and families participate in the interreligious and Christian-Muslim dialogue programs, which serves the purpose of becoming very firm in their faith.

I am very grateful to all those who have made the programs of Peace Center a reality and great success. Especially, I am very grateful to Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) international for being our partner in making these programs a reality. I am also express my sincere gratitude to Very Rev. Fr Pascal Paulus OP, Prior Vice Provincial, Ibn-e-Mariam, Dominican Order, Pakistan, all Dominican community, as well as friends and well-wishers for being integral part of the Peace Center programs throughout the year! God bless you all!

INTRODUCTION:

Peace Center is a project of the Dominican Order, Ibn-e-Mariam, Vice Province, Pakistan. It was inaugurated & blessed by His Eminence, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, President, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Vatican, on 28th of November, 2010. It was a dream which became a reality to have a place for dialogue among various religions, especially Muslims and Christians. At the blessing ceremony the entire Catholic and Church of Pakistan (Protestant) leadership along with Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Baha'i religious leaders were present to witness this event.



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To build bridges of trust, acceptance, respect and demolish the walls of hatred and mistrust among people of various religions, especially Christians and Muslims.
2. To provide a forum where Muslims and Christians and believers of other religions come together under one roof and share their problems and challenges and seek their possible solutions for betterment of humanity, especially religious minorities.
3. To discuss and concentrate on those things which unite us rather than which divide us.
4. To work jointly for the betterment of our society and thus create an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and acceptance of each other and our society.
5. To publish articles, books and annual "Peace: A Theological Journal".
6. To regularly update our website www.peacecenter.org.pk

IRF Roundtable in Washington DC, Pakistani Delegation was presented Ambassador for Peace Awards



The International Religious Freedom (IRF) Roundtable delegation from Pakistan made a lasting impression at the 2024 International Religious Freedom (IRF) summit held in Washington, DC in February, 2024. The delegation, led by prominent religious leaders and government officials, represented Pakistan with pride and showcased the country's commitment to

promoting religious freedom and tolerance.

The IRF Roundtable delegation from Pakistan's successful trip to the 2024 IRF summit is a testament to the country's efforts in promoting religious freedom and tolerance and finding solutions to the challenges. The delegation's participation and representation at the summit has not only brought positive recognition to Pakistan but also highlighted the country's ongoing efforts to protect the rights of all its citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs.

The Pakistani delegation consisted of; Fr James Channan OP, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Allama Muhammad Ehsan Siddiqui, Mr. Kashif Mirza, Allama Ibtisam Ilahi, Ms. Anila Ali and Mr. Imtiaz Mir and a couple of others. The two-day summit, was organized by **IRF Summit** co-chairs, Ambassador Sam Brownback and Dr. Katrina-Swett Lantos, and it brought together leaders and representatives from over 80 countries to discuss the current status of religious freedom around the world.



In addition to their participation at the summit, the delegation also had the opportunity to participate in the National Prayer Breakfast - a yearly event that brings together leaders from different countries and religions to pray for peace and unity. Mr. Joe Biden, President of United States was the Chief Guest. Main focus of the speech of Joe Biden and other leaders was the teachings of Jesus Christ. It was great honor for Fr James Channan OP and other delegates to participate in this National Prayer Breakfast.

Mr. Michael Jenkins, President of Universal Peace Federation presented "Ambassador for Peace" Award to Fr James Channan OP in recognition of his tremendous services for promoting culture of peace and interfaith harmony in the world.

At a closing awards dinner at co-hosted by the Universal Peace Federation UPF and IRF Roundtable Pakistan, Chairwoman, Anila Ali, several awards were presented to the interfaith delegation. UPF UN Ambassador of Peace Awards were presented by Dr. Michael Jenkins, President Washington Times to different delegates.

Interfaith delegation from Sindh visits religious sites and old city of Lahore Peace Center Staff facilitates

Love Among Religions Can Bring Peace

An interfaith delegation consisting of Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh leaders from the Province of Sindh visited Badshahi Mosque Lahore, Sikh temple, Lahore Fort and old city on 24 February, 2024. They met with the people of different religions and together they gave the message of peace and interfaith harmony. All members of the delegation stressed the importance of interreligious dialogue and peaceful coexistence for a peaceful and prosperous future.



This was an opportunity for individuals from different faiths and religions to come together and enhance mutual understanding and cooperation for the promotion of peace and harmony in Pakistan.



Mr. Asher Nazir, Executive Secretary of Peace Center represented the Peace Center. This forum of interfaith exposure is much needed and reaffirms the need for mutual understanding, respect and interreligious dialogue in Pakistan. We need to work together to promote an environment of inclusion, and dignity without discrimination on any basis. The leader of the group was Fr. Shahzad

Khokar, a Franciscan priest (OFM). Asher Nazir Executive Secretary, Peace Center Lahore welcomed them in Lahore and visited the religious places of different religions in Lahore.

The delegation confirmed that they will continue working to achieve peace and harmony among believers. Their visit aimed to foster harmony, promote inter-religious dialogue and peaceful coexistence among the people of different religions in Pakistan. Interfaith delegation stressed that continued cooperation between religious communities in Pakistan is essential for lasting harmony. As promoter of Peace, we should continue to work for peace through dialogue, convinced that this is the path to true harmony.

“Only peaceful coexistence will guarantee a prosperous and harmonious future for Pakistan.”

The delegation confirmed that they will continue working to achieve peace between religious groups by promoting interfaith dialogue, respect, and harmony in Pakistan.

Celebration of International Women's Day, 2024

Peace Center Lahore, Pakistan organized International Women's Day, 2024 at its premises. More than 130 women, girls participated from all walks of life and they celebrated International Women's Day,



2024 with the theme of **#InspireInclusion** and emphasized the importance of diversity and empowerment in all aspects of society. Peace Center was the host of the event. Dr. Naseem Akhtar, Dr. Neelum, Advocate Sumera Shafique, Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP, Dr. Malaka Abbas, Madam Neelum Nisari, Ms. Twinkle Sohail, Advocate Nadia Hameed, Naureen Akhtar, Principal Qaisra Shaheen, Ms. Wajiha Tanveer, Ms. Saiqa, Dr. Saleem Shah, Pastor Amjad, and

Mr. Iqbal Sani and Mr. Asher Nazir were guest of honor and they talked in the program on International Women's Day according to the theme Inspire Inclusion.

Fr. James Channan OP warmly welcomed all guests and he talked on the theme which was shared by the United Nations to the World. He said that the campaign theme for International Women's Day 2024 is "Inspire Inclusion". When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. When women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment. Collectively, let's forge a more inclusive world for women. To **Inspire Inclusion** means to celebrate diversity and empowerment on International Women's Day 2024 and beyond. International Women's Day (IWD) is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.



Dr. Naseem Akhtar, Dr. Neelum, Advocate Samaria Shafique, Dr. Malaka Abbas, Madam Neelum Nisari, Ms. Twinkle Sohail, Advocate Nadia Hameed and Ms. Naureen Akhtar shared that we are celebrating International Women's Day 2024 and reflecting on the theme of Inspire Inclusion, let us reaffirm our commitment to creating a world where all women are empowered, valued, and included. By working together to

break down barriers and foster diversity, we can build a more equitable and inclusive society for generations to come. Women shared that today many women are working on very high position in different professions as like Doctors, Advocates, Teachers, Police officers, Bankers, Social Activists, Media Anchors, Politicians and many women are in business in Pakistan. We are happy that in recently election in Pakistan a women Ms. Mariam Nawaz



was elected as Chief Minister of Punjab. Students of three Girls Schools participated in different performances theme and through these acts they showed that we are important part of this society. By providing family support and resources, women can be empowered to overcome obstacles and achieve their full potential. It calls for action to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create environments where all women are valued and respected. This year's campaign theme

underscores the crucial role of inclusion in achieving gender equality. It calls for action to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create environments where all women are valued and respected. Inspire

Inclusion encourages everyone to recognize the unique perspectives and contributions of women from all walks of life, including those from marginalized communities

One of the key pillars of Inspire Inclusion is the promotion of diversity in leadership and decision-making positions. Women, especially those belonging to underrepresented groups, continue to face barriers when seeking leadership roles.



Education and awareness play vital roles in fostering inclusion and empowering women. Through initiatives such as mentorship programs, educational workshops, and advocacy campaigns, individuals and organizations can create opportunities for women to thrive. In recent years, there has been a growing movement within the film industry to prioritize inclusion and representation. However, there is still much work to be done to ensure that women from all backgrounds have equal opportunities to



participate and succeed in the industry. By supporting and amplifying the voices of female filmmakers, we can create a more inclusive and representative cinematic landscape.

As we celebrate International Women's Day 2024 and reflect on the theme of Inspire Inclusion, let us reaffirm our commitment to creating a world where all women are

empowered, valued, and included. This celebration of Women's Day at Peace Center was highly appreciated by all participants.

Christian Faith Formation Program

Theme: The Spirituality of Fasting and Significance of Easter



Peace Center, Lahore organized one day seminar on The Spirituality of Fasting and Significance of Easter on 19 March, 2024 at Peace Center. Fr. James Channan OP Director Peace Center, Lahore was host and Fr. Naveed Akhtar OP and Fr. Zahid Augustine OP participated as resource persons and they talked on this topic. More than 50 Christian Youth and their parents participated in the seminar at Peace Center Lahore. All the group was active and they participated in session of

questing and answering. Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP and Fr. Zahid Augustine OP talked to the participants on the theme: The Spirituality of Fasting and Significance of Easter. Fasting and Easter hold significant spiritual meaning in many religious traditions, especially within Christianity. Let's explore their connection and individual importance:

Spirituality of Fasting

Fasting is seen as a form of spiritual discipline, a way to draw closer to God, purify the body, and strengthen the soul. Here's why it is significant spiritually:

Sacrifice and Self-Denial: Fasting is an act of sacrifice, where a person denies his physical needs or desires (usually food or drink) to focus on spiritual growth. This self-denial is not merely about abstaining but is meant to redirect one's attention from earthly pleasures to spiritual matters.



Humility and Repentance: In many religious traditions, fasting is a means of humbling oneself before God and acknowledging one's dependence on the Divine. In Christianity, for example, fasting can be a form of repentance, a way to reflect on one's sins and seek forgiveness.

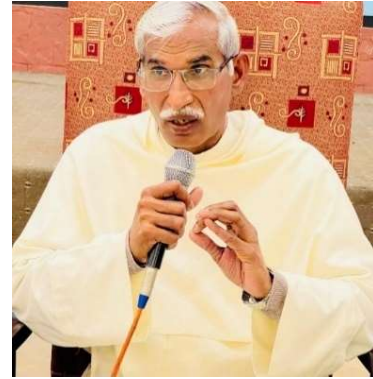
Focus on Prayer and Meditation: Fasting is often accompanied by intensified prayer, scripture reading, and meditation. This allows individuals

to create space in their lives for deeper reflection, drawing them closer to God's will and wisdom.

Purification of the Body and Spirit: Spiritually, fasting is seen as a way to purify oneself from distractions or temptations. It can serve as a reminder that one's true nourishment comes from God, not from material or physical sources.

The Significance of Easter

Easter is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It is seen as a celebration of life, hope, and victory over death, with deep spiritual meaning.



1. **The Resurrection of Jesus:** Easter celebrates Jesus Christ's triumph over death, symbolizing the hope of eternal life for believers. We as Christians believe that through His resurrection, Jesus conquered sin and death by offering salvation to humanity.
2. **Victory Over Sin and Death:** Easter is seen as the fulfillment of God's promise of redemption. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, believers are offered the hope of overcoming both sin and spiritual death, which is the ultimate gift of grace.
3. **New Life in Christ:** The resurrection represents a new beginning for believers. Spiritually, it signifies the transformation that occurs when one accepts Christ, leaving behind a life of sin and entering into a new life of righteousness, love, and service.
4. **Hope and Renewal:** Easter is a time for Christians to renew their faith, hope, and commitment to God. It is a reminder that, just as Jesus rose from the dead, believers too can experience spiritual renewal and growth. It's a moment of profound joy and celebration of life.

Christian Faith:

Christian faith is the belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Savior of humanity, and the foundation of life. It is centred on love, grace, and salvation through faith in Jesus.

Christian Faith Formation in Families in Pakistani Context

Faith formation in Christian families is essential for spiritual growth and a strong Christian identity, especially in Pakistan, where



Christians are a minority. Here are key steps for nurturing faith in families:

1. Strong Biblical Foundation

- Read the **Bible daily** as a family (e.g., morning devotions or before bed).

- Memorize key **Bible verses** together.
- Teach children biblical stories and values.

2. Regular Prayer and Worship

- Pray together as a family every day (morning/evening prayers).
- Attend **church services** regularly and encourage children to participate.
- Sing Christian hymns and worship songs at home.



3. Christian Character Building

- Teach children to follow Christ's example in **honesty, kindness, and humility**.
- Encourage forgiveness, patience, and love within the family.
- Lead by example—parents should live out Christian values.

4. Church Involvement & Fellowship

- Engage in **Sunday School, youth groups, and Bible study meetings**.
- Participate in **church ministries**, helping the needy and sharing the Gospel.
- Celebrate **Christian festivals** (Christmas, Easter) with a focus on faith, not just traditions.



5. Christian Education & Media

- Provide children with **Christian books, movies, and songs**.
- Encourage them to watch or listen to Christian teachings online.

- Guide them to understand Christian teachings amid cultural and social challenges.

6. Witnessing and Evangelism

- Teach children to share their faith respectfully in school and community.
- Show Christ's love through acts of kindness to neighbors, even non-Christians.
- Support Christian outreach efforts and missionary work.

7. Trust in God Amid Challenges

- Encourage faith and courage when facing **persecution or discrimination**.
- Teach children that God's presence is always with them.
- Stand firm in faith despite societal challenges.



Christian faith formation in families requires consistent effort through prayer, Bible study, church involvement, and a Christ-centered lifestyle. In Pakistan, where challenges exist, Christian families must remain strong in faith, trust in God, and raise their children to be faithful disciples of Christ. Would you like me to include some specific Bible verses or practical activities for family faith formation.

In token of thanks Fr. James Channan OP Director Peace Center thanked to all Christian youth and their parents to participate in the seminar of Christian faith formation program. He said that today I am happy and thankful to that Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP and Fr. Zahid Augustine OP delivered and wonderful lecture on the topic of The Spirituality of Fasting and Significance of Easter.

Peace Centre Lahore hosts distribution of customized wheelchairs ceremony

On 15 April, 2025 Peace Center organized the distribution ceremony of wheelchairs for disabled people with the collaboration of Society for Special Persons. With the financial support by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Pakistan, to promote mobility and independence among individuals with disabilities. More than 70 very poor disabled person received wheelchairs and they belong from Christian and Muslim families. Disabled person shared that today we are thankful to Peace Center and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Pakistan for this wonderful gift.

It was very moving experience to be with special children, men and women who were invited to Peace Center. Wheelchairs were given to each one of them as they were disabled and not able to walk.

Fr. James Channan OP and Mr. Asher Nazir shared that this is a great activity in our Peace Center that today we



are giving wheelchairs to disabled people. He said that we are thankful to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Pakistan for making, it possible. Mr. Scott Willey and Mr. David Beal the member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said that we are happy to see this and we should care and love to others as today did this to give the wheelchairs among disabled people without of any difference. We will continue this humanitarian work with Peace Center Lahore, Pakistan.

Interfaith Iftar & Easter Dinner



Peace Center, Lahore organized Interfaith Iftar and Easter Dinner on 7th April, 2024 at Lahore. In this program 45 Interfaith leaders from different religions as Muslims, Christians, Hindu and Sikh were present and with joy they participated like brothers and

sisters in this interfaith gathering. In honorable guests Mufti Ashiq Hussain, Pandit Baghat Lal Khokhar, Allama Mehmood Ghaznavi, Fr. John Joseph, Allama Qasim Ali Qasim, Allam Asghar

Arif Chishti, Allama Asim Makhdoom, Qari Shakeel Ahmad, Syed Nau-Bhar Shah, Sardar Sikandar, Pastor Nasir, Advocate Ishtiaq Chaudhry, Zaheer Shah, Pastor Arif, Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP and Dominicans brother participated in this Interfaith Iftar and Easter Dinner at Peace Center.

let us join in extinguishing the fires of hatred, violence and war, and instead light the gentle candle of peace, drawing upon resources for peace that are present in our rich human and religious traditions.

“Christians and Muslims: Witnesses of Hope”. Hope can be symbolized by a candle, whose light radiates security and joy, whereas fire, uncontrolled, can lead to the destruction of fauna and flora, infrastructure and the loss of human lives.

May you're fasting and other pious practices during Ramadan and the celebration of 'Eid-ul Fitr that concludes it, bring you abundant fruits of peace, hope and joy.

Fr. James Channan OP shared that today, we come together as people of different faiths, backgrounds, and traditions to celebrate Interfaith Iftar & Easter Dinner, a day that carries a universal message of hope, renewal, and love. Easter reminds us that after every hardship comes ease, after darkness comes light, and after despair comes new beginnings.

The teachings of Jesus Christ emphasize compassion, forgiveness, and peace—values that resonate in all religions. His life was dedicated to serving others, uplifting the poor, healing the broken, and spreading love without discrimination. In these challenging times, we must hold on to these values to build a more peaceful and united Pakistan.



No matter our beliefs, we are all part of the same human family. Our shared values—kindness, justice, and respect for one another—can help us foster a society where all people, regardless of faith, can live with dignity and harmony. As the Holy Quran (49:13) reminds us:

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another."

Let Easter be a reminder that love is stronger than hate, unity is stronger than division, and hope is stronger than fear. May this day inspire us to work together for peace, interfaith harmony, and the progress of our beloved Pakistan.

Happy Easter to all! May God bless us with peace, love, and understanding.

Allama Asim Makhdoom shared that we are a peace family and together we are working for peace and interfaith harmony and today this program is a good example and model of love and peace that how together we can create unity, love, tolerance and peace among the people of different religions through these religious festivals. According to my religion, this goodness is for all, not for one person or group. God has planted a light in us, in some more, others less, but in all."

Mufti Ashiq Hussain shared that Ramadan is a time for spiritual renewal, self-improvement, and generosity. It reminds Muslims to be grateful, kind, and conscious of God in every action. Through fasting, they purify their hearts, strengthen their faith, and contribute to a better, more compassionate world. Ramadan is known as the month of mercy, forgiveness, and salvation. Muslims seek Allah's forgiveness and also forgive others, promoting peace and reconciliation. By experiencing hunger, Muslims develop empathy for the less fortunate. Charity (Zakat and Sadaqah) is emphasized during Ramadan to help those in need. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: *"The best of men are those who are most beneficial to others."* (Hadith - Al-Mu'jam al-Awsat). All participants enjoyed with delicious Easter Dinner at Peace Center Lahore, Pakistan



International Interfaith Conference, 2024 in Doha, Qatar

Fr James Channan invited to represent Pakistan

Doha International Center for Interreligious Dialogue (DICID) and Foreign Ministry of the State of Qatar, organized international conference in Doha. It is one of the most important international platforms, bringing together intellectuals and representatives from the three monotheistic religions (Islam, Christianity, and Judaism), as well as religious scholars, academics, and leaders of interfaith dialogue centers, and institutions from around the world.



In the 15th Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue on the theme of "Family Structure in the Light of Changing World: Religious Perspective". Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad and Fr. James Channan OP participated as Christian leader and represented Pakistan.

The 15th Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, titled "Family Structure in Light of Changing World: Religious Perspective", was held in Doha on May 7-8, 2024. In conjunction with the 15th Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue is pleased to announce the 5th Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue, and to call for submissions.

Under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the work of the 15th International Conference for Interfaith Dialogue was launched on the topic of religions and raising children in light of contemporary family changes, under the slogan “Family Integration.” “Religion, values and education.” In her opening speech of the conference, Walwabint Rashid Al Khater, Minister of State for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, affirmed that the theme of this conference is consistent with the firm conviction in the State of Qatar of the centrality of the family in building societies, and the centrality of religion and morals in this building, which is something that the Constitution of Qatar stipulates without ambiguity in Article (21), pointing to the State of Qatar’s mobilization, at the international level, of efforts in favor of the family, and its continuous endeavor to enhance international advocacy for its issues, with the comprehensive dialogue platforms it has provided for decision-makers, politicians, academics, international organizations and charitable societies



The conference discussed the search for scientific methods of studying the institution of the family, as well as the development of partnerships between organizations aimed at strengthening the family structure.

Interfaith Conference on Dialogue Among Religions Chief Guest Dr. Safi Kaskas from USA

Peace Center Lahore organized Interfaith Conference on Dialogue among Religion on 7 June, 2024 at 125-B, Pak Arab Housing Society Ferozepur Road, Lahore. Dr. Safi Kaskas was the Guest of Honor in this Interfaith conference. Asher Nazir Executive Secretary Peace Center Lahore invited to Pandit Baghat Lal Khokhar, Fr. Lazar Aslam, Sardar Sikandar Sing and Allama



INTERFAITH CONFERENCE ON DIALOGUE AMONG RELIGIONS

Date: 07 June, 2024

Guest of Honor: Dr. Safi Kaskas

Venue: 125-B, Pak Arab Housing Society, Ferozepur Road, Lahore

Organized By: Peace Center Lahore, Pakistan



Badar Munir for Interfaith prayers. After interfaith prayers he warmly welcomed to Guest of Honor Dr. Safi Kaskas and all participants.

Mr. Asher Nazir invited to Fr. James Channan OP for the introduction of Dr. Safi Kaskas and other guests. Fr. James Channan OP Director Peace Center first shared about Peace Center that to enhance the universal dialogue mission of the Catholic Church as well as priority of the Dominican Order and our Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province



Pakistan. To make every effort to create a culture of peace, justice, tolerance and respect through dialogue programs, conferences, seminars and publications.

Father James Channan, Director Peace Center and other Interfaith leaders presented a Lifetime Achievement Peace Award to Dr. Safi Kaskas.

Dr. Safi Kaskas is an administrator in the managerial sciences with over 40 years of broad-based experience in strategic planning, leadership and business ethics with an emphasis on strategic management in the corporate and academic world with the interfaith leaders from Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh.

Dr. Safi Kasak shared that today I am thankful to Fr. James Channan OP for this opportunity that today I am in Peace Center Lahore with this beautiful Interfaith gathering with the people of different religions in Pakistan. Peace Center is playing the important role to promote of tolerance, peace and interfaith harmony among the people of religions. You are all ambassador of peace and important part of Peace Center because you are working with Fr. James Channan OP to promote peace in Pakistan and Pakistan will be free from hate, intolerance and social



evils and you are projecting a positive face of Pakistan to show the World that you are peaceful nation and civilize democratic society. Because you know the face of peaceful and tolerant Pakistan will ultimately bring Prosperity to citizen

throughout the country. He said Islam give the teaching of “Let him not harm his Neighbor”. He said persecution has taken many forms, including violence, discrimination, and blasphemy

laws. The persecution of Christians in Pakistan is a result of a number of factors, including religious extremism, sectarian violence, and the country's blasphemy laws. Religious extremism is on the rise in Pakistan, and Christian churches, Christian houses their properties and Christian schools have been targeted in attacks. The Pakistani government has been criticized for its failure to protect Christians from persecution and has been accused of turning a blind eye to the persecution of Christians.

Fr. Pascal Palous OP Vice Provincial Ibn-E-Mariam vice province Pakistan gave the token of thanks in the last of the Interfaith conference. He thanked to Dr. Safi Kaskas that today he delivered a lecture in this interfaith conference. I am happy to listen that Dr Kaskas translated and published the Qur'an into simple easy to understand English in January 2015 and published The Qur'an with references to the Bible in January 2016. This book has 3000 references to the Old and the New Testaments. Today we learnt many positive things through listening and sharing with one another as "Let him not harm his Neighbor" this is religious teaching of all religions and we should according to our teaching. As people of Peace and People of Love we should promote peace among the people of different religions.

I congratulate to Fr. James Channan OP and the staff of Peace Center to organize this successful Interfaith Conference.

Paigham-e-Pakistan (Pakistan Narrative) Conference in Lahore

Pakistan Narrative was organized by the Government of Pakistan and Directorate General of Religious Education on 10th June, 2024. Dr Faisal Awan, Director of DGRC was the Chief Organizer, whereas, Major General (R) was the Chief Guest and Fr James Channan OP, Guest of honor.

Directorate General of Federal Ministry for Religious Education and Federal Ministry of Education organized Paigham e Pakistan Conference with Interfaith leaders from different religions at Alhamra Art Council Lahore, Pakistan. More than 500 people were present in this conference and big number of Muslims Madrasas students and teachers participated in this conference.



Fr. James Channan OP participated in this program as Guest of Honor. Prominent religious leadership were present from Muslim, Christian and Sikh religion.

Directorate General of Federal Ministry for Religious Education shared his views that we Muslims are the followers of great and noble religion Islam.

1400 years ago, Prophet Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah brought his divine message which freed the Arabian Peninsula from the clutches of injustice, ignorance, inequality and tyranny. - In no time, this message spread across the globe. What was this message



Islam is a religion of peace: we greet each other by Salam-o-Alaikum, meaning peace be upon you. Islam is a religion of moderation: Extremism in any form is haram. Islam is a religion which teaches dignity of life: - Killing one innocent human being is like killing of entire humanity. Islam is a religion of tolerance and accommodation: - The Holy Quran says there is no compulsion in religion- Imposing one's ideology on others by force is in violation of Islamic injunctions.

Islam is a religion of equality and justice.

National Conference on Constitutional Rights of Minorities and Responsibilities of the State of Pakistan

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah of the Supreme Court has called for coexistence and tolerance in society, pointing out that Pakistan is among the lowest-ranking countries when it comes to religious freedom.

Justice Shah said all non-Muslim communities in Pakistan “are dear to us, and we all love them”, expressing his wish to see elevation of judges in the higher courts from the minority communities as well, though he added the term ‘minority’ was not



suitable for them, as it only represents their numbers. He expressed these views while addressing the Justice A.R. Cornelius Conference, hosted by a minority rights organization on Saturday. Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi of the Lahore High Court also spoke.

Fr. James Channan OP is addressing the National Conference in Lahore to pay tribute to a Catholic Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan (from 1960 to 1968,) Justice A. R. Cornelius. Mr. Samuel Payara, Chairman IMRF organized this grand event. During this conference he strongly condemned violent mob attacks on Christians in Pakistan and demanded speedy justice for the culprits involved in these religiously motivated crimes.

Lamenting that the country ranked at the bottom of the religious segment in the Freedoms House Report by the European Union in 2023, Justice Shah said it was a collective responsibility of the nation to correct it.

Justice Mansoor, law minister hope for minority communities' representation in higher judiciary. He said the situation was unfortunate as the Constitution provided rights to the minorities and Holy Prophet (PBHU) not only protected the rights of minorities through his actions but also taught Muslims to do so. The senior judge said: "There is only one flag in the world where you [minorities] are reflected. This white color represents you. I also say that crescent and star are also white. All these things represent you. We must understand that you are recognized in the national flag."

Citing the example of Riasat-i-Madina, he said protection of religious minorities was ensured in Islam, which has a history of love for minorities. Everyone was free to choose their religion and everyone lived peacefully together, he said, adding that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) ordered Muslims to protect the worship places of non-Muslim communities.

He recalled that Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa went to Jaranwala after the houses of the minority community were burnt by an unruly mob and apologized to the victims on behalf of the entire nation. He said the judiciary had always protected the minorities, but it was necessary to ensure tolerance in society.

"We should tolerate each other's point of view so that we can move forward," he observed.

Talking about the title of the conference, Justice Najafi said Justice Cornelius worked extensively for human rights. He pointed out that former chief justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani also extended great services for the protection of minorities in Pakistan. Tassaduq Hussain Jilani (born 6 July 1949) is a Pakistani judge who served as the 21st Chief Justice of Pakistan from 2013 to 2014. He previously served as a justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan from 2004, after being nominated as a justice of the Lahore High Court by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto



in 1994.

He said the judgements of Justice Jilani would always be remembered. He said the judiciary ensured justice beyond religious and ethnic affiliations. Justice Najafi said it was the responsibility of the state to protect the worship places of all minorities. Federal Law Minister

Azam Nazir Tarar said Islam guaranteed the rights and protection of minorities. He said the Constitution also ensured the fundamental rights of minorities. Azam Nazeer Tarar (Urdu, Punjabi: اعظم نذیر تارڑ) is a Pakistani politician who is serving as the Federal Minister of Law and Justice from 11 March 2024. He is a member of the Senate of Pakistan elected from Punjab in March 2021. He served as Leader of the House in the Senate from 20 April to 30 September 2022. He said the government had been holding meetings with the representatives of minorities and legislating based on their input.

Mr. Tarar announced that a commission was being formed regarding the minorities. He said judges from the minority communities had done excellent work in the past. He said the government also desired to see representation of the minority communities in the higher judiciary.

Roundtable Conference with Religious Leaders

"Disturbing Trend of Increasing Mob Violence and Intolerance"

On 1st of July, 2024 Catholic Commission for Interreligious Dialogue & Ecumenism, Pakistan



Interfaith with the collaboration of Peace Center organized Round Table Conference with Religious Leaders at a local hotel in Lahore. Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Grand Imam of the Badshahi Mosque, Lahore, participated as Chief Guest and this conference was

presided over by Bishop Yousaf Sohan Diocese of Multan and Chairman of the National Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism. Many religious leaders participated from different religions. With it the preventatives of civil societies were also present there.

Religious Leaders Rt. Rev Yousaf Sohan , Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad Chairman of Pakistan Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Fr. James Channan OP, Director Peace Center Lahore Pakistan, Revd. Amjad Niamat Chairman Presbyterian Ecumenism, Human rights Interfaith, Peace & Harmony Commission, Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, Revd. Emmanuel Khokhar Spoke person Church of Pakistan, Dr Majid Able Executive Secretary PCP, Fr Khalid Rashid Asi , Dr Marus Fida , Ashar Nazir Executive Secretary Peace Center & other on a Round Table Interfaith Peace Conference Topic " Disturbing trend of increasing mob violence and intolerance" organized by Chairman Rt. Rev. Yousaf Sohan , Bishop of Multan, Catholic Commission for inter- Religious Dialogue & Ecumenism, Pakistan Catholic bishops Conference.

Bishop Yousaf Sohan, the esteemed Chairman of Catholic Commission for inter- Religious Dialogue & Ecumenism, Pakistan Holds Productive Discussion with Religious Leaders in Lahore. Samuel Clement National Executive Secretary Catholic Commission for inter- Religious Dialogue & Ecumenism, Pakistan welcomed to all honorable guests and he shared the introduction and objective of Catholic Commission for inter- Religious Dialogue & Ecumenism, Pakistan. He said today with great honor I want to give appreciation for the services of Fr. James Channan OP because he was first National

Executive Secretary of this National commission. He said today we are happy that a big number of Interfaith leaders are present in this Round Table Interfaith Conference and this is the result with the working of Peace Center Lahore. Because recently I visited Lahore and engaged in a productive conversation with religious leaders representing diverse schools of Islamic thought and Christian leaders. Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad, the Khateeb of the Badshahi Mosque, and also the chairman of the Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and the and Father James Channan OP Director Peace Center spearheaded this enlightening dialogue, with the common objective of fostering harmonious interfaith relations and preventing future incidents. The discourse was marked by an atmosphere of



unity, respect, and understanding among all participants. Through open and honest conversation, the religious leaders explored avenues to promote religious harmony, peaceful coexistence, and mutual respect among various faith communities. Religious violence incident, which shook the nation and reverberated

throughout the world, serves as a stark reminder of the importance of fostering religious understanding and promoting tolerance. Recognizing this pressing need, the participants resolved to work together, disregarding religious boundaries, to ensure such unfortunate incidents do not recur in the future.

Bishop Yousaf Sohan, Maulana Khabeer Azad, and Father James Channan OP called upon all individuals and communities to support their noble cause of interfaith dialogue and religious harmony. By standing united, Pakistan can achieve a future where every individual can freely practice their religion without fear of discrimination or violence.

Bishop Khadim Bhutto and President of New Apostolic Church Pakistan visited Peace Center Lahore, Pakistan



On 4th July, 2024 Bishop Khadim Bhutto Chairman Minority Affairs NPCIH National Peace Committee for Interfaith Harmony and Rt. Rev Afrahim Roshan President New Apostolic Church Pakistan came from Karachi with his team they visit to Peace Center Lahore. Mr. Asher Nazir Executive Peace Center Lahore welcomed to Bishop and his team members and he visited

Peace Center and with it he shared the introduction and activities of Peace Center with them. They appreciated to work of Peace Center Lahore and they said that Peace Center doing a wonderful work for the promotion of peace and interfaith harmony among the people of different religions in Pakistan.

Peace and Interfaith Harmony Conference

There was Peace and Interfaith Harmony Conference organized in Youhanabad in which Mr. Asher Nazir, Executive Secretary of Peace Center participated. He expressed his great joy at this conference which is of prime importance in Pakistan. It brings closer the believers of different religions under one roof. Mr. Asher presented book of Fr. James Channan OP "Path of Love: A Call for Interfaith Harmony" to Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs, Government of Punjab. This conference was organized by New Apostolic Church Pakistan on 6th July, 2024. In this conference Provincial Minister of Interfaith harmony and Religious Affairs Punjab participated as Chief Guest with the invitation of Mr. Asher Nazir. More



than 130 Interfaith people were present in this conference. Bishop Khadim Bhutto and Pastor Afrahim President of New Apostolic Church Pakistan were host and together they organized this beautiful Interfaith conference. As guest of honor Allama Syed Ayaz Zaheer Hashmi Federal Chairman NPCIH and Syeda Noor-ul-Sabah Hashmi Federal Chairperson of National Peace Committee for Interfaith Harmony Pakistan. In honorable guests Allama

Muhammad Zubair Abid, Mufti Ashiq Hussain, Allama Asim Makhdoom, Sohail Ahmad, Dr. Abdul Ghafar Randhawa and Iqbal Sani participated in this interfaith gathering.

Allama Ayaz Zaheer Hashmi shared that NPCIH is a non-profitable organization. Our aim is to work towards a world where peace and harmony prevail in the nation. Let us continue to work towards our common goal of promoting peace in our communities and beyond. Together, we can create a world where harmony and understanding prevail. Mr. Asher Nazir Executive Secretary Peace Center, Lahore presented a book of Fr. James Channan OP Path of Love: A Call for Interfaith Harmony to Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora Provincial Minister Minority Affairs Government of Punjab in Peace and Interfaith Harmony Conference at Youhanabad.



Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora Provincial Minister and Allama Ayaz Zaheer Hashmi shared that as peace promoter our objective is to bring harmony in multi-faiths, which is lacking today and needs are to speed up the activities on the subject Internationally, to save and eliminate the problems the world is facing today. The Pakistan nation at present is trying at all levels and efforts towards bring awareness among the people involved in all walks of life to control

extremism and terrorism. Pakistan is becoming a front state countering extremism and terrorism. To encounter such activities and to bring harmony in provinces, races and common men to save the country from such evil-deeds. Since the world has squeezed into a global village, therefore, interfaith harmony is essential for its peace. We need to work together to eliminate the scourge of terrorism, extremism and sectarian violence. To create this shift we are proud that we are together as people of different religions and today we are establishing a good example for Peace and Interfaith Harmony among the people of different religion in Pakistan. Government of Pakistan wish to bring about peace and harmony, between all provinces of Pakistan and Globally. Our aim is to bring a better understanding, cooperation and unity among different sects and faiths.

Interfaith Conference on National Minority Day ,2024

President House, Islamabad, Pakistan



On 12 August, 2024 Government of Pakistan organized Interfaith conference on National Minority Day, 2024 at President House Islamabad, Pakistan. President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Zardari participated as Chief Guest in the conference. More than 500 interfaith people participated in this conference all the provinces of Pakistan

President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday reiterated that Pakistan was committed to protection of



the rights of minorities and provision of equal opportunities to them to excel in every walk of life as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

Addressing a ceremony to mark the celebrations of Minorities' Day at

the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said, “Under the Constitution and under the onus of oath of my office, I have the duty to protect all rights of the minorities and provide all kind of facilitation”.

He said that the objective behind the observance of Minorities’ Day at the official level was to acknowledge the valuable contributions made by the members of different communities living in Pakistan. Lauding the role of the minorities in the national progress and prosperity, he said that they were the equal citizens of Pakistan and future builders of the nation.



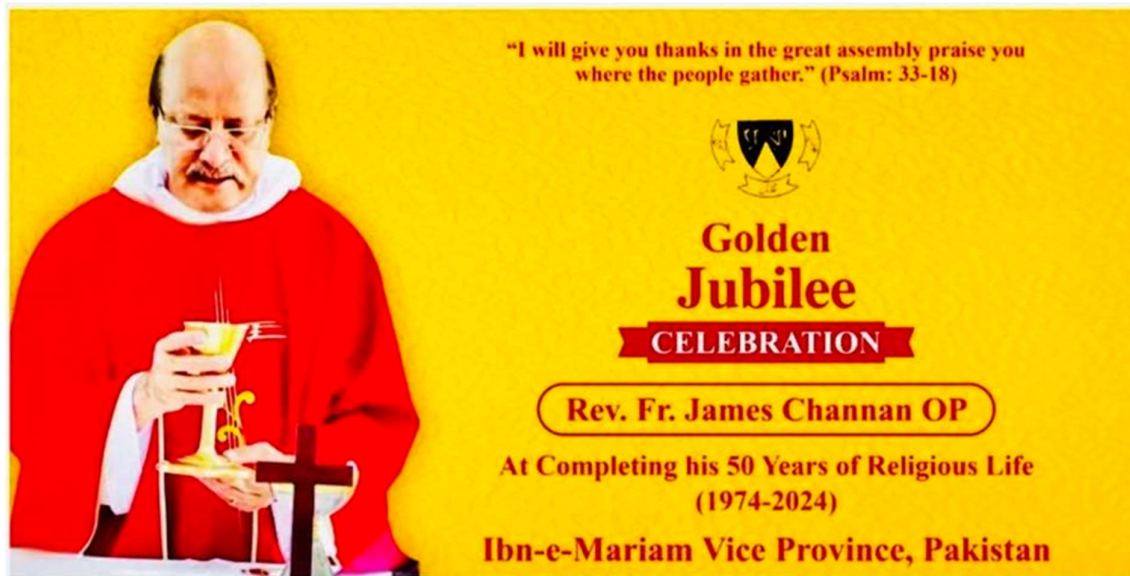
The event arranged by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was attended by members of parliament, ulema, religious leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, media and representatives from different minorities.

His Grace, Archbishop Joseph Arshad and other speakers lauded the President Asif Ali Zardari, for the observance of Minorities’ Day at the national level and the recent signing of Christian Marriage Act (Amended) 1872.



Archbishop Joseph Arshad, Bishop Nadeem Kamran Church of Pakistan, Fr. James Channan OP, Bishop Humphrey Sarfaraz Peter Church of Pakistan, Hafiz Thair Mehmood Ashrafi, Haroon Sarb Diyal representative of Hindu community, Sardar Guralp Singh representative of Sikh community, Dr Seema Farzad representative of Bahai community and Isphandiyar M. Bhandra, a member of National Assembly and representative of Parsi community and with it a big number of Interfaith people participated in this conference.

Golden Jubilee Celebration of Fr. James Channan OP



A Shining Example: Fr. James Channan's 50 Years of Dedication

On 3rd September 2024, the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Lahore witnessed a grand celebration as Fr. James Channan OP marked 50 years of his priesthood. The Golden Jubilee ceremony was attended by a large number of dignitaries, including Archbishop Benny Mario Travas, Archbishop Joseph Arshad, Bishop Indrias Rahmat, Bishop Yousaf Sohan, clergy of different congregations, sisters and a large number of the faithful. With my Muslim, Christian, Hindu and Sikh friends who came to share the joy of my Golden Jubilee of Religious life on 3 September, 2024; Prof. Mehmood Ghaznavi, Syed Mufti Asia Hussain, Dr Badar Munir, Sardar Sikandar Singh, Rev. Emmanuel S. Khokhar, Rev, Amjad Niamat, Hafiz Asim Makhdoom, Pandit Bhagat Lal Khokhar and others. I am very much grateful to all of them



The ceremony began with a solemn mass, led by Fr. James Channan OP, and assisted by Fathers Pascal Paulus OP & Akhtar Naveed OP. The mass was accompanied by beautiful hymns and chants, sung by the Dominican brothers & sisters. The first reading was done by Mr. Iqbal, while the second reading was done by Ms. Shahida Ashar. Dn. Bashir Francis

read the Gospel.

In his homily, Archbishop Joseph Arshad congratulated Fr. James on his remarkable milestone and praised his dedication to the service of the Lord. He emphasized the importance of priesthood and the role of priests in guiding the faithful.

The ceremony also included a presentation of gifts to Fr. James, offered by his family and the Dominican community. The gifts symbolized the love and appreciation of the people for Father James' selfless service.



The second part of the ceremony took place in St. Anthony's Hall, where a variety program was held. The program included a welcome song, a tableau, and a drama based on Father James' life, which was greatly appreciated by the audience.

The program concluded with the cutting of a jubilee cake and a festive meal.

The celebration was a testament to Fr. James' tireless efforts and dedication to his faith. His Golden Jubilee is a milestone not only for him but also for the entire Christian community in Pakistan.

A Life of Service and Dedication

Fr. James Channan has spent 50 years of his life serving the Lord and the people of Pakistan. His journey as a priest has been marked by numerous challenges and achievements. He has worked tirelessly to promote interfaith harmony and understanding, and has been a vocal advocate for the rights of minorities in Pakistan. Fr. James' selfless service has earned him numerous accolades and recognition, both nationally and internationally. He has been a source of inspiration for many, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations.

Prayers and Congratulations

The Christian community in Pakistan and around the world congratulates Fr. James on his Golden Jubilee. We pray that he may continue to serve the Lord with the same zeal and dedication, and may he be blessed with good health and happiness.

May Fr. James' example inspire us all to serve the Lord and our fellow human beings with love and compassion. Amen.

International Recognition

Fr. James Channan OP has received numerous messages of congratulations from around the world, including from Pope Francis, who sent a special blessing for the occasion. Other dignitaries who sent messages of congratulations include Cardinal Joseph Coutts, Bishop Evarist Pinto, and Bishop Khalid Rehmat.

The Golden Jubilee celebration of Fr. James Channan's priesthood was a momentous occasion, marked by love, appreciation, and recognition. It was a testament to his tireless efforts and dedication to his faith, and a source of inspiration for all who know him. May his example continue to inspire us all to serve the Lord and our fellow human beings with love and compassion.

Peacebuilding Pak-Cop 2024 Conference by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) in Murree

Peace Center Staff Mr. Asher Nazir and Madam Neelam Nisari participated with Fr. James Channan OP

Norwegian Church Aid Pakistan organized Peacebuilding PAK-COP 2024 Interfaith conference



with partners and like-minded organization at Shangri-La Hotel Murree, Pakistan. Fr. James Channan OP Director Peace Center Lahore invited by Norwegian Church Aid NCA as speaker and with his Mr. Asher Nazir Executive Secretary and Madam Neelam Nisari Program Manager participated in this conference. Mr. Imran Munir representative of Norwegian Church Aid NCA warmly welcomed to Fr.

James Channan OP and with it he presented the introduction of him. Fr. James Channan OP delivered his lecture on Faith-Based Climate Action in Pakistan with faith actors. In June 2015, Pope Francis published a groundbreaking document that made a theological case for climate action called *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. That fall, in a rare moment of unity, nations established the landmark Paris Climate Agreement. Now, eight years later, the Pope is back with an even bolder update. In "*Laudate Deum*," or "Praise God," Pope Francis says the world is "nearing the breaking point," condemns climate denial, and calls for urgent climate action. The Roman Catholic church he leads is the largest Christian denomination and has over a billion followers around the world. NCA works in close collaboration with local faith-based organizations and NGOs, local private sector stakeholders in value chains (input suppliers, processors, buyers, etc.) as well as international companies that can, for example, contribute with technologies, innovation and knowledge. NCA also works closely with academia and research institutions. The aim is to guide, support and inspire our civil society and faith-based partners to become strong mobilizing actors for climate resilience and climate justice. Where possible, NCA seeks private sector collaboration.

NCA mobilizes its faith-based partners to work in their communities and towards their external environment, supporting them in awareness raising and dissemination of knowledge about climate change and environmental degradation. NCA also strengthens these partners' ability to organize community groups, address local vulnerabilities and build initiatives for climate resilience, while identifying and supporting local solutions and actions.

NCA also strengthens faith-based climate networks and platforms to raise awareness about climate change at all levels. At the same time, it supports its faith-based partners to establish or join existing inter-faith climate change platforms and climate action networks, to strengthen their advocacy interventions. NCA also secures faith actors' involvement in regional and international advocacy processes and creates linkages and spill-over effects to national climate justice advocacy agendas (linking national to regional and international levels). There is a strong focus on youth involvement in these international advocacy processes, linking their local work

to wider national and international climate justice advocacy agendas. Collaborating with Faith Actors and Civil Society

Participation in the Interfaith Celebration of the birth of Prophet of Islam



On 11 September, 2024 the birth of the Prophet of Islam Muhammad (PBUH) was celebrated at International Secretariat of Minhaj-ul-Quran. In this celebration a large number of Muslim, Christian, Hindu, and Sikh religious leaders along with scholars from various schools of thought participate.

President of Minhaj-ul-Quran International, Professor Dr. Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, has

emphasized that promoting interfaith harmony and tolerance is crucial for establishing lasting peace in the world. He stated that everyone must work together for the respect and welfare of humanity.

In his speech, Dr. Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, added that the gathering of representatives from various religions in the blessed celebration of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a great message of peace for Pakistan and the world. He said that the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did not only



bring a message of equal rights for all humanity but also set a historical precedent for interfaith harmony and tolerance during the Madinah period of his governance. The Holy Prophet (PBUH)

established standards for interfaith tolerance and the fulfillment of interreligious rights, which have served as a guiding light for Muslims throughout the 14 centuries.

Fr James Channan as Director of Peace Center and representing the Christian community congratulated Muslims at the birth of their Prophet. He said that Muslims and Christians make more than 56% of the world population and it is very important that work together for lasting peace in the world. To participate in such joyful celebrations, strengthen our peace and harmony work. Fr Pascal Paulus OP, Prior Vice Provincial of the Ibn—e-Mariam, Vice Province also delivered beautiful message at this occasion. He congratulated the entire Muslim community at their blissful event. He said Islam and Christianity preach message of religious freedom, respect for all humanity and justice for all. He highly admired this celebration which was organized by the Minhaj University. Other religious leaders present at this event also congratulated at the birth of Muslim's Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) birth anniversary and expressed that the Prophet (PBUH) is a mercy for all humanity. His teachings contain the principles of respect for humanity and solutions to human problems. They also appreciated the efforts of Director of Interfaith Relations, Sohail Ahmad Raza, and his team for organizing the banquet and inviting representatives from all religions.

In his address, Sohail Ahmad Raza welcomed the religious leaders and participants. Other prominent attendees included Vice-Nazim-e-Aala Noorullah Siddiqi, Qari Khalid Mahmood, Head Granthi Gurdwara Dera Sahib Lahore Gyani Sardar Ranjit Singh, Dr. Syed Ijaz Gilani, Mufti Ashiq Hussain Shah,

Chairman All Maslik Ulema Board, Muhammad Asim Makhdoom, Reverend Emmanuel Khokhar, Sardar

Sikandar Singh, Fr. Pascal Paulus OP, Ijaz Alam Augustine, Right Reverend Dr. Majeed Abel, Dr. Fr. James Channan, Dr. Badar Munir Saifi, Hindu scholar Professor Dr. Sarwar Bhoomanaz, Allama Muhammad Hussain Golra, Dr. Professor Asma, Maimoona Javed Syed, Zara Ahmed, Sufi singer Fareeha, Salman Nasir, Khwaja Habib, Miss Mishtood Tereza Gayer, Ayesha Shabbir Deo, Syed Ghulam Abbas Shirazi, Shehzad Ahmed Khan, Pir Tahir Nazir, Altaf Randhawa, Hafeez Rehman Khan, Aurangzeb Raza Khan, Saqib Bhatti, among other leaders and a large number of participants.



Empower. Unite. Transform. Youth Delegates Gather at the 18th International Human Rights Summit in New York

The 18th International Human Rights Summit kicked off with a display of youthful passion and advocacy as 50 Youth and Senior Delegates from 34 nations—joined by over 400 government officials, educators and human rights advocates from around the world—gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Their arrival was met with a standing ovation from the attendees, reflecting collective respect for their commitment to human rights. The delegates, selected from a large pool of applicants based on their stellar track records in advocating for human rights, didn't just come for praise. Their main purpose was to expand their knowledge and skills to advance their goals.



Fr. James Channan OP participated in the Human Rights Summit on 19 September, 2024. The human rights of all must be respected and ensured by all 193 member countries of the United Nations.

Dr. Mary Shuttleworth, President and Founder of United for Human Rights and its sister organization Youth for Human Rights International, has been spearheading the summits since they began in 2004. She praised the delegates for their accomplishments and future potential, underscoring the



significance of their ongoing work. “So young and old alike, together, we empower, unite, transform and drive change through human rights education,” she said. “Education is like throwing someone a lifeline in a storm. It can be used to defend against the storm.” Ambassadors of the Permanent Missions to the UN of Timor-Leste, the United States, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Sri Lanka, Australia and the Democratic Republic of Congo welcomed the delegates and congratulated them for their advocacy. “People have tossed around all kinds of ideas for how to modernize the United Nations. But for me, there’s one solution that’s non-negotiable: we need more young people in the rooms where decisions get made,” said Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, in her remarks. “But more than that, we need more young people helping to make those decisions.... And I know so many of my generation cannot wait to see all of the extraordinary things you do to make our future a better place.”

International Day of Peace,2024

Peace Center Lahore organized International Day of Peace on 21 September,2024 at Pak Aarab Housing Scheme, Ferozepur Road Lahore, Pakistan. The theme was **Cultivating a Culture of Peace** by the United Nations for the year of 2024. More than 100 people participated in this program from different religions as Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs. Mr. Asher Nazir warmly welcomed to all honorable guests with great joy. The program began with interfaith prayers from Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and interfaith prayers offered for love and harmony among the people of different religions. After the interfaith prayers all eminent honorable guest requested to come forward for beaming the peace candle to glow the throughout event.

It was absolutely fabulous celebration of the UN International Day of Peace on the theme of “**Cultivating a Culture of Peace**” with over 100, Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs at our Dominican’s Peace Center in Lahore. As honourable guest Allama Muhammad Zubair Abid, Allam Badar Munir, Mufti Ashiq Hussain, Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP, Pandit Baghat Lal Khokar, Pastor Amjad Nimat, Dr. Marcus Fida, Sardar Sikandar Singh, Advocate Ishtiaq Chaudhry, Pastor Samuel Massi, Dr. Kanwal Feroze, Ch Zubair Farooq Ahmad, Dr. Abdul Ghafar Randhawa, Mr. Samuel Payara, Fr. Lazar Aslam. All interfaith leaders pledged that as people of different religions we should live with peace and harmony and we should promote love and respect to others because love to others is the teaching of all religions.



Mr. Asher Nazir Executive Secretary Peace Center invited to Fr. James Channan OP for the welcome note and introduction of the theme “**Cultivating a Culture of Peace**” of International Day of Peace by United Nations. Fr. James Channan OP Director Peace Center said that all the



Nations in the World need Peace and Love and United Nations want that the people of all nations and all religions should live with peace and love and we should give respect to other. As people of Peace and promoter of peace and interfaith harmony we should be good example of Peace. Today we are celebrating International Day of Peace according to the theme by United Nations and every year Peace Center

celebrate this international day with the people of different religions which are working for peace and promoting peace and interfaith harmony among the religions. This year we are celebrating international day with the theme of “**Cultivating a Culture of Peace**” by United Nations.

Today I am happy to see that a big number of people from different religions are participating in this event and this is very beautiful celebration of the International Day of Peace and Golden Jubilee of my Religious Life celebrated at Peace Center in Lahore. Several Muslim, Christian and Hindu prominent religious leaders, promoters of peace and interfaith harmony, Lawyers, and representatives of Civil Society are present in our Peace Center. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. In that declaration, the United Nations' most inclusive body recognized that peace "not only is the absence of conflict, but also requires a positive, dynamic participatory process where dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation." In a world with rising geopolitical tensions and protracted conflicts, there has never been a better time to remember how the UN General Assembly came together in 1999 to lay out the values needed for a culture of peace.



These include: respect for life, human rights and fundamental freedoms; the promotion of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation; commitment to peaceful settlement of conflicts; and adherence to freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among nations.

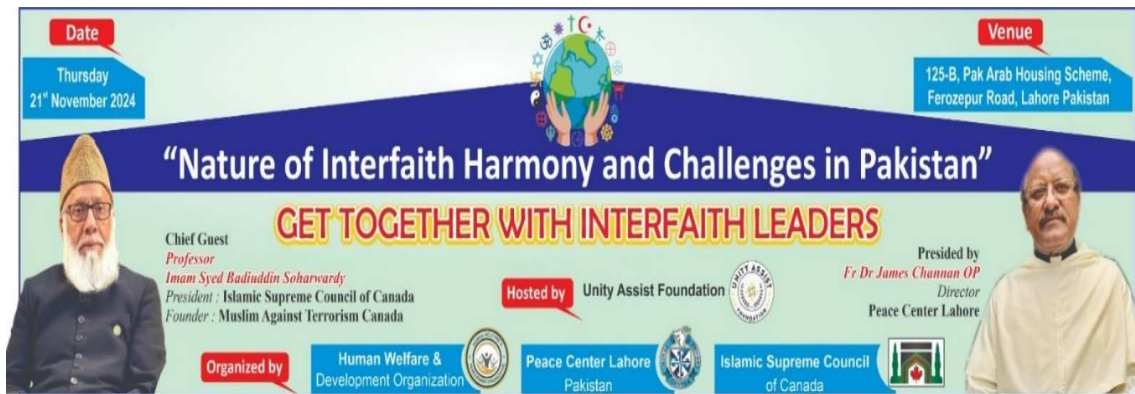
The Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) starts with the notion that "wars begin in the minds of men so it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed". It is this notion that framed the theme and logo of this year's observance of the International Day of Peace. The ideas of peace, the culture of peace, need to be cultivated in the minds of children and communities through formal and informal education, across countries and generations. The International Day of Peace has always been a time to lay down weapons and observe ceasefires. But it now must also be a time for people to see each other's humanity. Our survival as a global community depends on that. Rev. Yuel Bhatti, and Members of A Better Community For All Canada Pakistan honored with Shields to Fr. James Channan OP, Madam Neelam Nisari, Fr. Pascal Palus OP and Mr. Ashar Nazir for 50 Years of Glorious Excellence and Garlanded with Garland to all honorable Guest. This was Mega Event of the International Day of Peace. Rev. Yuel Bhatti, Nasreen Chaman Aqeel Khan, Pastor Samuel Message, Mr. & Mrs. Razia Burq & Mufti Syed Ashiq Hussain presented these shields on the behalf of Rev. Yuel Bhatti President A Better Community for All Canada and Pakistan & Yes Peace Promoters Pakistan.

Rev. Yuel Bhatti, and Members of A Better Community For All Canada Pakistan presented Shield to Fr. James Channan OP at completing his 50 Years of Religious life with Glorious Excellence.

With it the team members of A Better Community for All presented shields to Madam Neelam Nisari, Fr. Pascal Palus OP and Mr. Ashar Nazir in recognition of their valuable services promoting Interfaith harmony and Peace among the people of different religions in Pakistan. Nasreen Chaman, Aqeel Khan, Pastor Samuel Messi, Mr. & Mrs. Razia Burq & Mufti Syed Ashiq Hussain Garlanded with Garland to all honorable Guest. This was Mega Event of the International Day of Peace. presented these shields on the behalf of Rev. Yuel Bhatti President A Better Community for All Canada and Pakistan & Yes Peace Promoters Pakistan. Mr. Asher Nazir thanked to Rev. Yuel Bhatti and his team members for these wonderful appreciations on the International of Peace Day at Peace Center Lahore, Pakistan.

One day Interfaith Conference at Peace Center

Nature of Interfaith Harmony and Challenges in Pakistan



Peace Center Lahore organized an Interfaith conference with the theme of Nature of Interfaith Harmony and Challenges in Pakistan on 21 November, 2024. Peace Center Lahore, organized with the collaboration of Islamic Supreme Council Canada, Unity Assist Foundation and Human Welfare & Development Organization. Professor Imam Syed Badinddin Soharwardy came from Canada and he was the chief guest. More than 50 Interfaith leaders participated in this



Prof. Syed Badiuddin Soharwardy (born 1955 in Karachi) is a scholar, a shaykh of the Sohrawardy Sufi order, chairman of the Al-

[illegible]

Islamic Supreme Council of Canada. Imam Soharwardy is a strong advocate of Islamic Tasawuf (Sufism) and believes that the world will be a better place for everyone if we follow what the Prophet of Islam,



Hazrat Muhammad (Peace be upon him) has said, you will not have faith unless you like for others what you like for yourself. He believes that spiritual weakness in human causes all kinds of problems.

Pandit Baghat Lal Khokhar, Mufti Ashiq Hussain, Sardar Sikandar Singh, Pastor Asif Khokhar, Advocate Nadia Hameed, Samuel Payara, Dr. Rizwan Hussain, Advocate Anjum Ghori, Dr. Shirjil participated in question and answering session.

Fr. James Channan OP thanked to Imam Syed Badiuddin Soharwardy for his time and participation as chief guest in this interfaith conference and with it he thanked to all interfaith leaders for their wonderful sharing and participation at Peace Center.



Fruit of Christian-Muslim Dialogue

Prayer Room for Christians Inaugurated at Punjab Institute of Mental Healthcare in Lahore



On November 23, 2024 a significant and heartwarming development, the administration of the Punjab Institute of Mental Health (PIMH) in Lahore has dedicated a special place for Christian worship, marking a milestone for interfaith harmony just ahead of Christmas. This achievement was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Pir Allama

Muhammad Abid Zubair, Rev. Fr. James Chanan OP, Saqib Bajwa (Executive Director of PIMH), and Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafiq. For years, the Christian staff and patients at PIMH, which is home to approximately 700 employees, including 250 Christians, faced challenges sharing a single prayer space with Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs. The shared space often led to scheduling conflicts, resulting in tensions and, on one occasion, a dispute that threatened to deepen religious divides.

The resolution came after two years of dedicated meetings led by Rev. Fr. James Chanan OP, Director, Peace Center, Lahore and Pir Allama Muhammad Zubair Abid. On November 18, 2024, their efforts bore fruit when a newly constructed building was officially dedicated as a Christian prayer space. Speaking at the inauguration, Rev. Fr. James Chanan OP expressed his gratitude to the PIMH administration and government officials. "This is a remarkable moment for the Christian community here at PIMH. The previous arrangement allowed us just 30 minutes in a shared auditorium, which was insufficient for our prayers. Now, with this dedicated prayer room, our community can worship freely, especially during this blessed Christmas season," he said. Pir Allama Muhammad Zubair Abid highlighted the significance of interfaith harmony in Islam, stating, "Islam advocates for freedom of worship and respect for all religions. This initiative is a testament to that principle. From the vast 100 acres of PIMH land, a small yet meaningful space has been allocated for our Christian brothers and sisters."

The ceremony, held in a peaceful and spiritual atmosphere, featured a choir composed of Christian nursing staff singing psalms of thanksgiving. Fr. James Chanan OP also thanked Provincial Health Minister Punjab Khawaja Salman Rafiq and Saqib Bajwa for their instrumental roles in making this possible. With this achievement, Lahore's Christian community has received a meaningful Christmas gift, and it stands as a shining example of what can be accomplished when people from different faiths work together for a common good.

Meeting with Dr. Hussain Mohiuddin Qadri, Deputy Chairman, Minhaj University, Lahore

Fr. James Chanan OP was invited to have a meeting with Prof. Dr. Hussain Mohiuddin Qadri, Deputy Chairman, Minhaj University on 17 October, 2024 at Minhaj University, Lahore. Mr. Sohail Ahmad Director Interfaith Relations Minhaj University, Lahore welcomed to Fr. James Chanan OP and he visited the different department of Minhaj University. After this a was arrange of Fr. James Chanan



OP with Dr. Mohiuddin Qadri and in this meeting they explored many ways and possibilities of how to enhance peace, religious freedom and interfaith harmony, which are basic teachings of Islam and Christianity. Mr. Sohail Ahmad Raza, Director of Interfaith Harmony, was also present and shared many valuable suggestions and how together we can work for the promotion of Interfaith harmony and peace and how we can involve interfaith youth in our activates and programs.

International Conference on World Religions

organized by Minhaj University in Lahore

Fr. James Channan OP was conferred "Lifetime Achievement Award"



An international conference on the theme of "Promoting Interfaith Dialogue for Global Peace", was held on 26th-27th October 2024 at Minhaj University Lahore. This conference welcomed over 500 participants including prominent scholars, religious leaders, academics and policymakers from around the world, and served as a platform to explore the relationship between religion and politics, emphasizing themes of harmony, tolerance and unity. The conference included Keynote speeches and Panel discussions by national and international scholars addressing the misuse of religious texts, challenges of extremism, and necessity of promoting accurate interpretations of sacred scriptures to build peaceful coexistence among diverse communities. Furthermore, Prof. Dr. Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, Deputy Chairman, Board of Governors MUL, and Dr. Hassan Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Minhaj-ul-Quran International emphasized the collective responsibility of religious scholars, academics and policy makers in fostering understanding and countering narratives that lead to conflict.

The theme of the conference is "Politics and Violence in the Name of Religion." Scholars and professors from renowned universities in the UK, USA, Australia, Austria, Singapore, India, and Norway presented research papers at the conference.

The event attended by university faculty members, professors, religious leaders from various faiths, scholars from different schools of thought, and a large number of students.

Registrar of Minhaj University Lahore, Khurram Shehzad, said that the objective of the conference is to keep students informed about academic and research topics. He emphasized that intellectual exchange between international scholars is crucial for building an educated Pakistan and nurturing an enlightened younger generation.

During this international conference, Fr James Channan OP, Director of Peace Center was conferred Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding services in the field of religious freedom, equal citizenship, interfaith harmony and peace at national and international levels.

IMAGINE PEACE

National Interfaith Conference for Peace

In collaboration with Peace Center, Sant' Egidio Community of Pakistan organized National Interfaith Conference for Peace with the theme of IMAGINE PEACE on 30th of November, 2024 at Peace Center, Lahore. Ms. Sadia Iqbal and Mr. Garry Mushtaq were organizer from Saint Egidio Community of Pakistan.

Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad Grand Imam Badshahi Mosque Lahore and Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal (Siting of the moon) Committee Pakistan participated as Chief guest in this conference. Fr. Dr. James Channan OP Director Peace Center Lahore presided over the Imagine Peace National Interfaith Conference for Peace.

As honorable guests Allama Muhammad Zubair Abid, Sardar Sikandar Singh, Pandit Baghat Lal Khokar, Allama Kazam Raza Naqvi, Mufti Ashiq Hussain, Allama Zubair Zaheer Ahmad, Fr. Akhtar Naved OP, Fr. Basharat Suraj, Fr. Lazar Aslam OFM, Shahid Mughal, Prof. Muhammad Mehmood Ghaznavi, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar Randhawa, Mufti Muhammad Ramzan Sialvi, Allama Asad Ullah, Advocate Najam Iqbal Ghor, Kawaja Javed Aslam, Dr. Michale Iqbal Nisari participated in this conference.



Mr. Asher Nazir Executive Secretary Peace Center Lahore welcomed all honorable guests. The team members of Sant' Egidio Community of Pakistan presented rose bouquets to all honorable guests. Asher spoke about peace and noted the excitement of the attendees. He mentioned, 'Today, everyone is smiling and excited that as a people of different religions as Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Christian brothers and sisters we are all here.'



Fr James Channan OP, Director Peace Center Lahore shared the objective of the National Interfaith Conference for Peace IMAGING PEACE and with it he shared the introduction of community of Saint' Egidio. He expressed his gratitude for the attendance of leaders from various religions, thanking them for their precious time. He emphasized that the theme of the conference was 'Imagine Peace' and noted the importance of peace, stating, 'If there is peace, there will be justice and acceptance' Father James Channan further explained that this conference was organized by Sant 'Egidio, an international organization working for peace, founded in Italy. Sant 'Egidio operates in 78 countries and has groups in Pakistan, including Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Faisalabad and Sargodha. The organization works towards peace, and the key objectives of Sant 'Egidio are represented by the acronym PPP—Prayer, Poor, and Peace. Father James spoke about the teachings of various religions, including Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism, all of which emphasize peace. He noted that peace is mentioned over 200 times in the Bible, peace is also abundantly mentioned in Islam and Hinduism.

Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Grand Imam of Badshahi Mosque, Lahore shared in his views that how



can we bring peace to society? If there is no peace, how can we move forward in life? Sant' Egidio, Dr. Andrea, and Dr. Marco are doing great work for the world. Our brother Roberto, who leads Pakistan, and our sister Valeria, who leads Asia, are also doing outstanding work. We are working with them to spread peace and this great message."

Maulana Abdul Kabeer Azad

added, "Sant' Egidio has done many great works for peace, such as the recent Paris Peace Meeting, where I was also invited. We thank Pope, our brother, who has done much for peace. We also thank Pope for his messages on Gaza and Ukraine, which have been wonderful."

He emphasized, "All religions teach the message of peace. In the Bible, it is written, 'Blessed are those who make peace.' The Holy Quran also commands us to spread peace. We are all equal; we are all human. Our great leader, Quaid-e-Azam, the founder of Pakistan, gave a great message to Pakistan. Maulana also shared a profound statement: 'If we help one person, we help all of humanity, and if we kill one person, it is as if we have killed all of humanity.'

Allama Kazim Raza Naqvi was invited to deliver his message. He began with greetings in Arabic and expressed his gratitude for the great program. He said, "Allah says in the Quran, 'If you help Allah, Allah will help you.' Do you think Allah needs your help? No. But He has given you a great mind and a strong body, so use them wisely."

Appeal for Peace by Children of Sant' Egidio

All the children of Sant 'Egidio were invited to present the appeal for peace to the guests. The appeal was read by Mr. Shakeel Gill, who concluded reading it.

Professor Mehmood Ghaznavi was invited to deliver his message. He continued by stressing that if a person makes a wrong decision or commits a bad deed and becomes their own judge, they can never reach Allah. Prof. Mehmood Ghaznavi also pointed out that the Holy Quran mentions that Christians are so close to Muslims that they are considered our brothers.

Sarkar Sikandar Singh highlighted that everyone gathered here is for peace, and we must all work towards it. He shared a thought: "I have nothing in me, everything is yours. He urged the importance of helping humanity, regardless of religion, and focusing on helping the poor, who are in need.

He shared a story about Baba Nanak, who took money from his family for a purpose, but upon encountering poor people on the way, he spent all his money to help them. Sarkar Sikandar Singh also emphasized that with Christmas approaching, it is important to help poor Christians.

Recorded message of **Mr. Roberto Pietrolucci, Responsible of Sant' Egidio Pakistan** was played on the projector. In his message he said, Saint Egidio Community was founded in Rome on the initiative

of Andrea Riccardi who, in the climate of renewal of the Second Vatican Council, began to bring together a group of high school students to listen to the Gospel and put it into practice. He



shared that 2024 Paris Imagine Peace International Conference was held on September 22-24, by Sant 'Egidio Community and its annual International Meeting for Peace, entitled Imagine Peace, in Paris, France. The yearly conference is inspired by the 1986 Interfaith Meeting in Assisi, the city of St. Francis, organized by Pope John Paul II as a way to bring leaders of world religions together in their joint quest for peace. Prayer, the poor and peace are its fundamental points. The Community of Sant 'Egidio is a worldwide Catholic community that focuses on prayer, the poor, and peace, which are known as the PPP of Sant 'Egidio. At the end Fr James Channan OP, thanked Sant Egidio and all participants who made this event a great success.

His Excellency, Bishop Indrias Rehmat visited our Peace Center in Lahore

His Excellency, Bishop Dr Indrias Rehmat visited our Peace Center in Lahore along with Very Rev Fr. Pascal Paulus OP, Prior Vice Provincial, Ibn-e-Mariam, Dominican Order, Pakistan. Both of them highly admired all interfaith harmony, peace and equal citizenship activities of Peace Center.



Christian Lawyers Association Pakistan (CLAP) organized Interfaith Christmas Celebration at Lahore High Court Lahore, Pakistan

It was great experience to celebrate Christmas and cut the Cake 🍰 with Christian and Muslim Lawyers of the Supreme Court and High Court at Conference Hall of Lahore High Court. This very significant event was organized by the Christian Lawyers Association.



Pakistan (CLAP). Goodwill and Christmas greetings of peace, hope, joy and love were given by all respected guests and speakers. I was humbled to be the Chief Guest!

Patron-in-Chief of The Christian Lawyers Association in Pakistan (CLAP), Rev. Dr. Sharjeel Zafar Ghauri, Advocate High Court, leads the delegation for Christmas Cake Cutting Ceremony at Honorable Chief Justice Lahore High Court, Lahore, Madam Aalia Neelam's Office. Press Release by The Lahore High Court, Lahore.



Christmas celebration at Punjab Institute of Mental Healthcare in Lahore

Fr. James Channan OP, Mr. Salman Rafiq, Provincial Health Minister Punjab and Allama Muhammad Zubair Abid are cutting 50 pounds Christmas Cake at Punjab Institute of Mental Healthcare in Lahore to celebrate the birth of Lord Jesus Christ- the Prince of Peace!

A grand Christmas celebration organized at Punjab Institute of Mental Healthcare in Lahore. Mr. Salman Rafiq, Punjab Health Minister, Fr James Channan OP, Dr Saqib Bajwa and Allama Zubair Abid led in performing the ceremony of cutting 50 Pounds Christmas Cake! We wished Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025 to all and celebrated the birthday of Jesus Christ- the Prince of Peace! This grand event was organized by the Christian Staff of the Hospital. Special thanks to Pastor Nadeem Bhatti and his team.



Interfaith Christmas Celebration at Peace Center Lahore, Pakistan



Peace Center Lahore organized Interfaith Christmas Celebration 2024 at Peace Center with the people of different religions. In this Interfaith Christmas celebration gathering more than 130 people were present and they were from Christian, Muslim, and Hindu religions and they shared joy and love with one another and as people of different religions they gave the message of peace, Hope and Love.



Passage from the Gospel of St Luke about the birth of Jesus Christ was read, by Fr. Lazar Aslam OFM. Christmas Carols were sung, speeches on the significance of Christmas and the need of sharing Christmas joy and love with all around us was emphasized. The honorable guests included; Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Mr. Scott Willey, Allama Muhammad Zubair Abid, Dr. Marqus Fida, Pandit Bhagat Lal Khokar, Mufti Ashiq Hussian, Allama Asim Makhdoom, Syed



Nau Bahar Shah, Samuel Payara, Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP, Fr. Adil Ambrose OP, Fr. John Joseph OFM, Fr. Lazar Aslam OFM, Pastor Asif Khokar, Pastor Nasir, Advocate Ishtiaq Chaudhary, Advocate Ch Zubair Farooq Ahmad, Advocate Dr. Shirjeel Zafar, Dr. Abdul Ghafar Randawa, Pervaiz Kamran, David Sindu. Fr. Adil Ambrose OP

gave the Christmas message to the audience. Mr. Asher Nazir Executive Secretary Peace Center invited to Fr. James Channan OP for welcome note.

Fr. James Channan OP welcomed all the guests and wished them a very warm and blessed Christmas. He said: "Jesus Christ born and gave the message of peace and love to the whole world. He is the Prince of Peace and we are following His teachings." He shared that I am happy that in this interfaith Christmas Celebration a big number of interfaith people are present and as Christians, Muslims, and Hindus together we are celebrating



Christmas at Peace Center. This is the season of sharing love, peace, joys and happiness. Christmas brings joy to everyone on earth. In this Interfaith Christmas Celebration this is a sign



of joy that a large number of peace-loving Christian, Muslim, and Hindu leaders and families joined. May Peace and Joy of Christmas always remain with us and the entire world! In the ceremony of Christmas cake cutting all interfaith leaders participated with Fr. James Channan OP with joy and all were happy that they are part of this interfaith Christmas celebration at Peace Center. All the honourable guests were very happy and enjoyed the

different activities; they also joined to lit Candle of Peace and wished one another a very blessed and Merry Christmas. Christmas play and carols were sung by Christian youth and people were very much happy and impressed to see this Christmas celebration. Advocate Ishtiaq Chaudhary President of Human Rights Society of Pakistan Presented Fabulous Interfaith Harmony Service Award to Fr. James Channan OP for his 50 years services for the promotion of peace and Interfaith harmony among religions in Pakistan. Honorable guests gave Christmas gifts to children. Festive dinner was served to all. Fr. James Channan OP said that I am very grateful to Mr. Ishtiaq Chaudhary, Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan and President Legal Council, Human Rights Society of Pakistan for presenting me Application Award.

Our Lord Jesus Christ- The Prince of Peace is born! Let us rejoice and give thanks to God! Christmas Cake cutting ceremony at our Peace Center in Lahore in which a large number of Christian, Muslim and Hindu men, women, youth and children participated. "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." (Luke 2.14).



Submitted by:

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