



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM
PRO
DIALOGO INTER RELIGIONES

**Message of the President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue to the
Participants of the National Workshop on Christian Unity,
Minneapolis, USA, May 1-4, 2017**

In the name of this Pontifical Council, the Office of His Holiness, the Pope, for promotion of cordial relations with followers of other religions, I am pleased to convey the greetings and good wishes to you as well as to all the participants of the National Workshop on Christian Unity.

I am happy to learn that members of the ecumenical network from across the United States are attending this seminar, with the purpose of reflecting and discussing together the document “Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World: Recommendations for Conduct,” jointly produced by this Pontifical Council (PCID), the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) in 2011.

Fostering unity and harmony among Christians, as well as among believers of different religions, is an important priority in the ministry of Pope Francis. In his “Prayer Video” of January 2017, Pope Francis invited all to pray for Christian unity “that all Christians may be faithful to the Lord’s teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.” The document “Christian Witness” you intend to study notes that “Christians are called to commit themselves to work with all people in mutual respect, promoting together justice, peace and the common good. Interreligious cooperation is an essential dimension of such commitment (Principle no.8).”

In this regard, it is encouraging to see that as Christians, you have gathered together to seek ways and means to ecumenically address the challenges of our times inherent in a pluralistic society by fulfilling Jesus’ prayer “so that they may be one as we are one” (Jn 17:11). It is my hope and prayer that this meeting will prove most fruitful.

With these sentiments, and as a pledge of goodwill and friendship, I ask God to pour out on all gathered an abundance of divine blessings!

From the Vatican, 03 May 2017.

Jean-Louis Card. Tauran

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran
President