

# *Dialogue*

## *Today and Tomorrow*

### *Forty Years of Nostra Aetate*

*This two-day conference was sponsored by the Committees for Other Faiths and Catholic Jewish Relations of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the Centre for Interreligious Dialogue at Heythrop College, University of London.*

#### ***The Brotherhood of Man.***

*We cannot truly call on God, the Father of all,  
if we refuse to treat in a brotherly way any man,  
created as he is in the image of God.*

*Man's relation to God the Father  
and his relation to men his brothers,  
are so linked together that Scripture says  
'He who does not love does not know God'  
(John 4:8)*

*Nostra Aetate, (5)*

## ***The Global Context***

*Nostra Aetate, the Vatican Council's declaration on the relationship of the Church to non-Christian religions, was promulgated on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1965. Perhaps the most unexpected document of Vatican II, it has had an extraordinary effect on the promotion of inter-religious dialogue way beyond the boundaries of the Catholic Church. The first day of the conference explored the remarkable story behind the text and then considered prospects and possibilities for three of the major dialogues which the declaration has promoted in the last forty years.*

# *'Seizing the Day'*

## *Interreligious Dialogue in the UK: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*

*The Council exhorted Christians to respect the 'truths and values' found amongst people of other faiths and to engage in 'conversation and collaboration' with them. Since the Council a number of forms of interreligious dialogue have been developed, not just the dialogue which involves theological specialists but those conversations which are carried on by Christians living alongside their neighbours, sharing projects for the common good with them and learning from their forms of prayer and worship. The second day was an opportunity to celebrate and to reflect on the rich religious and cultural exchanges which have characterised inter-religious relations since 1965.*