

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

MESSAGE TO BUDDHISTS

FOR THE FEAST OF VESAKH 2007

*Christians and Buddhists:
educating communities to live in harmony and peace*

天主教宗教間對話委員會

二〇〇七年浴佛節給佛教徒的祝詞

基督徒與佛教徒：教育社區和諧與和平共處

親愛的佛教朋友：

一、在即將來臨的浴佛節盛會，本人及天主教宗教間對話委員會，向世界各地的佛教界，致上虔誠的祝福。

二、我們天主教徒與佛教徒之間有良好的關係，我們的接觸、合作與實現多元化的方案，協助加深了對彼此的瞭解。對話是促使宗教間關係有成果的正確途徑，加深彼此的尊重，並培育大家和諧共存的意願。

三、第二屆梵諦岡委員會教導全人類共享一個共同的起源和命運：上帝是我們的創世主以及我們地球之旅的目標。教宗本篤十六世在他2007年世界和平日的文告中有類似的說詞：因為人是由上帝的形象創造出來的，每一個人類都有人的尊嚴，他(她)不只是一個物，而是一個人，有自覺能力，有所有權，有捨己為人的自由，並可與他人交往。

四、建設一個社區需要的是有具體的態度，反映出尊重他人的尊嚴。更進一步來說，身為宗教人士，我們確信「有一個道德邏輯，是建立在人類生活中，使人與人、民族與民族間彼此有可能對話。」可是，有些人今天依然需要學習他人

Dear Buddhist Friends,

1. On the occasion of the festival of Vesakh, I am writing to Buddhist communities in different parts of the world to convey my own good wishes, as well as those of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

2. We, Catholics and Buddhists, enjoy a good relationship and our contacts, collaboration and implementation of diverse programmes have helped to deepen our understanding of each other. Dialogue is the sure path to fruitful interreligious relations. It deepens respect and nurtures the desire to live in harmony with others.

3. The Second Vatican Council teaches that the entire human race shares a common origin and a common destiny: God, our Creator and the goal of our earthly pilgrimage. Similarly, Pope Benedict XVI, in his 2007 Message for the World Day of Peace, observed: "As one created in the image of God, each individual human being has the dignity of a person; he or she is not just something, but someone, capable of self-knowledge, self-possession, free self-giving and entering into communion with others" (n. 2).

4. Building a community requires concrete gestures which reflect the respect for the dignity of others. Furthermore, as religious people, we are convinced that "there is a moral logic which is built into human life and which makes possible dialogue between individuals and peoples" (ibid, n. 3). Yet, there are people

和他人的信仰，以便克服偏見與誤解。這個可悲的事實，若要克服，需要靠公職與神職領導人士的大力努力。甚至在某些地方，人類每日仍遭受戰爭的殘害，燃燒著仇恨與報復的心理，但人類的互信仍可以重建。我們可以一起協助創造這樣的空間和機會，讓人們對彼此過去的錯誤，有述說、傾聽、抱歉以及給予寬恕的機會。

五、和平教育是社會各階層應該負起的一項責任。當然該由一般家庭開始，因為家庭是社會的基柱，家庭致力於灌輸子女良知，把傳統和良好的價值觀傳給他們。年輕的一代應該擁有，並真的在強化尊重、接受、慈悲和平等觀念的價值基礎教育下茁壯成長。因此，這是很重要的：公立學校與宗教學校均應盡其所能在微妙但充分的工作上來支持家長，教養小孩欣賞一切美好與真實的。

六、媒體的力量可以塑造人們的思想—特別是年輕人，這力量不可低估。當媒體中不負責任的元素增加到可察覺之時，這意味著大量的良善也可經由品質的製作和教育性的節目見其效應。在傳播媒體工作的人運用道德良知時，是可能消除無明和傳授知識、保存社會的價值觀，展現所有人類由精神本質而興起的生命提昇面。宗教信仰人士以從事公善的事業，令人欽佩地服務社會。

七、真正教育的宗旨最終是要教導人面對人生最終目標，它鼓舞人為殘缺的人性盡力。願我們共同繼續為社會和世界之和平與和諧貢獻。在你們慶祝這個盛會時，我們天主教徒以衷心的祝福加入你們的行列，我再次祝你們有一個愉快的浴佛節。

總裁

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秘書

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today who still need to learn about others and other people's beliefs in order to overcome prejudices and misunderstandings. This sad reality, if it is to be overcome, demands much effort on the part of both civic and religious leaders. Even in places where people experience daily the ravages of war, fuelled by sentiments of hatred and vengeance, trust can be restored. Together we can help to create the space and the opportunities for people to talk, listen, share regrets and offer forgiveness for each other's past mistakes.

5. Education for peace is a responsibility which must be borne by all sectors of society. Of course, this starts in ordinary homes where the family, the fundamental pillar of society, strives to transmit traditional and sound values to children by a deliberate effort to inform their consciences. The younger generations deserve and indeed thrive upon value-based education which reinforces respect, acceptance, compassion and equality. It is important therefore that schools, both government and faith-based, do all possible to support parents in the delicate but satisfying task of raising children to appreciate all that is good and true.

6. The media's power to shape minds, especially of the young, cannot be underestimated. While the irresponsible elements within it are increasingly being recognized for what they are, it is also the case that much good can be effected through quality productions and educational programmes. When people working within the media exercise their moral conscience, it is possible to dispel ignorance and impart knowledge, preserve social values, and portray the transcendental dimension of life which arises from the spiritual nature of all people. Religious believers serve society admirably by collaborating in such projects for the common good.

7. Ultimately, the aim of true education is to bring the individual to encounter the ultimate purpose of life. This motivates the person to serve broken humanity. Together may we continue to contribute towards peace and harmony in our society and the world. We Catholics join you with our heartfelt greetings as you celebrate this feast and I wish you once again a happy Vesakh.

Paul Cardinal Poupard

President

Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata

Secretary