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Which is the Bridge that unites us and gives Peace to the World?

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INTERRELIGIOUS TALK

In a hymn to Peace, with words of Pope Francis, that was made into a song by Odino Faccia, this beautiful melody is expressed like this: "For all to be one / walls don't exist anymore / but only the value of the encounter / that is the bridge to peace / unity is the path / an alliance always open to love and truth.

Paz - Paix - Peace - Salam - Shalom - Pace - Irene - Mir

Sisters and brothers,

We expected peace, and nothing is going well ... Who does not want Peace? BUT ... How to reach it in a world agitated by numerous and intriguing problems?

Christianity announces Peace with the Prince of Peace (Jesus) (Isa. 9: 6) and continues to announce it in every assembly of the Christian Communities. Islam announces Peace among all the adherents of its religion, with a greeting that has become a worldwide symbol of the Arabic language: Alsalam Alaykoun. The Hebrews put the roots of Peace with a Shalom well-known by everyone ... Shalom, Shalom, Shalom ... and so the other religions of the Earth.

Where is the problem for reaching peace?

St. Augustine says: "Pax tranquillitas ordinis" - Peace is the tranquility of order (from Civ. Dei, XIX, 13). Yes, tranquility of order, because order is the right disposition of things according to their end, and the end of every human creature is to return to God, from whom they came ... It is a bridge, between God and humanity, a bridge that brings the Word of God to humans, through the channels of transcendence of the Sacred Books, in the different religions, which find their origins in human consciousness, that is always seeking the Creator and discerning between good and evil.

But this bridge with God has to be materialized in the bridges that we have to build among men, even though they have diverse ways to God, a diversity that is a sign of our freedom.

In this world of paradoxes and constant changes, the global society has a certain homogenization, at the same time it becomes evident its enormous diversity in common spaces of coexistence. The efforts, that are carried out around the world, to foster the interreligious dialogue grow as the sense of uniformity and distrust towards difference grow.

The response to identity conflicts is more and more intense through proposals for establishing ties between the different communities of believers. Ties that do not seek to settle the differences or dissolve them in a homogeneous framework where divergences are not respected, but to assume them as part of a more complex work, full of nuances, less marked by an imposed ideology, where the willingness to share the journey and where mutual recognition stand out. They are basic works, day to day, marked by practical principles that do not wish to be lost in impotent debates or in supposed yearnings for domination.

The religious field is sensitive to the outbreak of identity conflicts, true, but it also contains its own antidote: it is the field that most speaks to us about the human condition.

Dialogue or coexistence?

Dialogue in coexistence and respect ...

The goal is not to compete, but to know, share, build bridges and witness ...

The idea of dialogue is not to confuse identities, nor to do any kind of syncretism, because to build bridges we need to have a solid base on each side, we need "iodines" to balance and strengthen ... these "iodines" are humility, mercy, forgiveness, prayer and getting to know each other

His Holiness Pope Francis addressing the ambassadors in 2013 says: "Building bridges between religions for Peace". Dialogue helps build bridges between all men so that each one finds in the other not an enemy, not an adversary or contender, but a brother to be welcomed and embraced. We cannot build bridges between men ignoring God and His mercy, but aslo we cannot live authentic relationships with God ignoring others.

There can be no real peace if each person is the measure of themselves, if each person can always claim only their own right, without caring, at the same time, about the good of others, of all, starting from the nature that human beings of the earth have in common, created equally to the image and likeness of God.