
Opening Dams and Gates

Dialogue is a common quest for liberty,
and as a consequence of progress in the liberty of each,
a common effort to advance in the direction of Truth.
(Daniel DEBARLE OP)

Being young students active in religious organisations, we are responsible for the future of Europe and the world. We face similar problems with other students of faith, many times from the opposite shores of one river.

These oppositions and enmities are often caused due to a lack of knowledge, communication and dialogue. As believers, we are responsible for being witnesses of God in an increasingly secularised society.

The topic of the fourteenth Mozaik is interreligious dialogue, from hostility to hospitality. This theme was also dealt with in the WSCF conference in Naersnes, Norway in October 2004: Young People as Agents of (Muslim-Christian) Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue.

In the Middle Ages, the interreligious relationships of Christianity concentrated on Islam and Judaism, and the Ottoman Empire was understood in apocalyptic terms. After the European discovery of the Americas, in the Atlantic community there was extensive triangular trade, marked by the forced mission of the conquistadores.

From the XIXth century onward, the modern missionary movement applied mainly the dominant ideology of social Darwinism, among others. At last, in our times, we are engaged in interreligious dialogue, informed with the fact of religious pluralism.

In our ecumenical journal, we first talk through the word, posing such questions as: Is it one God we believe in? How much have Muslims, Jews and people of other faiths influenced what is nowadays called European culture? What are the prayer techniques used in our religions? How can we join our forces in various and manifold common projects?

Then, we wonder upon the roses in the garden of God: What is the role of religion in peace-building? Do Sufi tradition and Christian mysticism have something in common? What is the real meaning of jihad, sharia, ijthad, and how can we Christians believe in a Triune God?

Finally, we address some thorny issues: Are human rights something we can build on? Is there religious freedom nowadays in the world? How shall we help to overcome Islamophobia and anti-Semitism? What role do gender issues play in our religions?

As always, we encourage our readers to write in with responses to the essays. Please send all comments, feedback, questions and further ideas to our email address (wscfmozaik@yahoo.co.uk). We are also looking for volunteer editors, illustrators and section editors, who could participate in making Mozaik more colourful, challenging and interesting.

We share our vision in texts and in pictures. Our illustrator, Evanthia TSANTINI, was born in Hungary of Greek parents, and was raised both in Hungary and in Greece. She graduated from the Technological Educational Institute of Athens, in the Faculty of Graphic and Fine Arts.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree (BA) in conservation of works of art. She is married and currently works and lives in Barcelona, Catalonia (Spain), where she is studying fine arts in the university.

Her illustrations are influenced by the experiences that her Greek Orthodox background has offered her, and are also enriched by the different socio-cultural experiences coming from her variety of living environments.

They are visual metaphors not only in the religious but also in the social and cultural fields, expressing the essentiality of communication, understanding, and the meaningfulness of sharing experiences and memories in dialogue.

With this issue I finish my service as the editor-in-chief of Mozaik, having edited seven issues. My newly elected successor is Peter ŠUDA from Košice, Slovakia. WSCF Europe wishes him a challenging and enriching time in putting together the next issues of our ecumenical journal. Ut omnes unum sint!

Mozaik 2007

