

Meeting between the Jain delegation and PCID Officials

Vatican, 6 December 2011

Press Communiqué

1. A meeting between the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID) and a Jain delegation took place on 6th December 2011 in the premises of the same Council. His Eminence Cardinal Jean- Louis Tauran, President, PCID, and Mr. Nemu Chandaria, Deputy Chairman-Board of Directors, Institute of Jainology, led the respective delegations.
2. This meeting was the second one after that of 14 February 1995. Moreover, there have been contacts between the Jain community and the PCID since 1986. Jain representatives participated in the "Assisi Days" in 1986, 2002 and 2011. Furthermore, on 13th November this year, the PCID organized, in Delhi, a seminar on Christian-Jain Dialogue, in collaboration with the Catholic Church in India and World Fellowship of Religions at Acharya Sushil Muni Ashram.
3. In the said meeting, held in an atmosphere of mutual respect and friendship, members of the delegations expressed satisfaction over the cordial relations and cooperation that exist between both the Christian and Jain communities in countries where they live their day-to-day lives in proximity.
4. While expressing the desire to expand mutual concrete collaboration, the delegations agreed that it must be ever more strengthened at the local levels to better contribute towards the common good of the entire society. In particular, they stressed the importance of educating the younger generations to be aware of their own traditions, and to know and better respect that of others.
5. With an aim to find concrete areas of convergence as the basis of collaboration, they discussed about the Jain principle of 'non-violence' (*Ahimsa*) and that of Christian 'charity'. They found some common elements that can motivate and sustain the Jain-Catholic collaboration, recognizing the differences between the two principles.
6. They also recognized that these elements, on a practical level, call upon the followers of both the traditions to promote mutual respect, truthfulness, honesty, freedom, peace, social harmony and to commit themselves to eliminate every form of violence against human beings, in particular injustice, poverty and exploitation of natural resources.