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Mercy MOMENTS

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Mercy For All



A Hindu priest gives a shawl to the Pope during an interfaith meeting in Sri Lanka (PA)

“For the sake of peace, religious beliefs must never be allowed to be abused in the cause of violence and war. We must be clear and unequivocal in challenging our communities to live fully the tenets of peace and coexistence found in each religion, and to denounce acts of violence when they are committed.”

–Pope Francis: reported in *The Catholic Herald*, 13 January 2015

“Among the privileged names that Islam attributes to the Creator are ‘Merciful and Kind’. This invocation is often on the lips of faithful Muslims who feel themselves accompanied and sustained by mercy in their daily weakness. They too believe that no one can place a limit on divine mercy because its doors are always open.

I trust that this jubilee year celebrating the mercy of God will foster an encounter with these religions and with other noble religious traditions; may it open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; may it eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination.”

–Pope Francis: *The Face of Mercy* #23



Pope Francis with Jewish and Muslim leaders, Jerusalem May 2014. Image by Lior Mizrahi /Getty Images.

REFLECTION

Intolerance of the beliefs of others is a frequent cause of violence and injustice.

- > How might the call to greater interfaith dialogue and acceptance be embraced by all people?
- > What avenues do you have in your work to foster understanding and respect between those who follow different religions or those who have no religious affiliation?