

Lux Center News



September 19, 2016

Sint Unum—We Are One **Catholic and Jewish Perspectives**

As a new academic year has begun at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, most of us are hopefully aware of the theme adopted for this year. It is *Sint Unum—We Are One*. It is a philosophy to which Fr. Leo Dehon, founder of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, was deeply dedicated. What does *Sint Unum* mean for clergy and for ordinary citizens? It may be worthy of exploration from both Catholic and Jewish perspectives.

The phrase *sint unum* originates from the gospel of John 17:11 *Father, let them be one, as We are One*. Some interpret this to emphasize the concept of unity in the midst of diversity. In other words, all people who accept Jesus as divine should be united even though there are differences among them. Another way of looking at it, is that Jesus' heart is so large that it works across all sectors of society and encompasses all of humanity.

The Jewish faith is grounded in the belief in the one God of all of humanity, and the belief that all human beings are created in God's image. That means each human being is endowed with inherent dignity and value, that God speaks to each person, and that we as human beings must recognize our common humanity.

As we spend each day at SHSST and as we venture out into our global society, it is difficult to avoid encountering other people who originate from other cultures, backgrounds and religions. The fact that we live in a multi-cultural and multi-faith society needs to be confronted and understood. Both Christians and Jews have a duty to strongly affirm that society is strengthened with the fundamental principles of the uniqueness, equality, inherent dignity and absolute value of each individual.

Sint Unum—We Are One.

A Hasidic* Tale

*Hasidism is a Jewish mystic movement founded in the 18th century in Eastern Europe that maintained that God's presence was in all of one's surroundings and that one should serve God in one's every deed and word.

A rabbi asks his students how they can tell when the night has ended and the day has begun.

"Could it be," one asked, "when you see an animal in the distance and can tell whether it's a sheep or a dog?"

"No," the rabbi answered.

"Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it is a fig tree or a peach tree?" another asked.

"No again," the rabbi replied.

“Then what is it?” the pupils demanded.

The sage answered:

“It is when you can look at the face of any man or woman or child and see your sister or brother. Because if you cannot see this, it is still night.”

Dehon Lectures 2016-2017

The two Dehon Lectures for this academic year are planned in the spirit of *Sint Unum*. On Wednesday, September 28th, representatives of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will present an overview of “Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers.” On Tuesday evening, March 28th and the day of Wednesday, March 29th, the “Lux Center Symposium on Interreligious Dialogue” will be held. The program on the 28th will be open for the public. Fr. John Crossin, Executive Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the USCCB will be one of the keynote speakers. Other national and local experts will also participate (TBD). Traditionally, all students and full-time faculty will attend both Dehon Lectures.

The Jewish New Year is Approaching

Jewish communities throughout the world are currently preparing for the deeply spiritual High Holidays (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur). This preparation begins a full month before Rosh Hashanah, which starts at sunset on Sunday, October 2nd this year. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is one of Judaism’s holiest days. It commemorates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a ten day period of introspection and repentance that culminates in the Yom Kippur holiday, also known as the Day of Atonement. A Jewish holiday calendar for 2016-2017 is attached to this e-mail for your reference.

The Lux Center wishes its Jewish friends and colleagues a happy and healthy New Year (*L’shanah tovah!*).

What’s Up at the Lux Center?

Here is a schedule of planned programs for 2016-2017:

October 26, 2016	12:00-12:15	SHSST Lobby	The Torah: A Celebration
November 4, 2016	12:00 - 1:00	SHSST	Tragic History in Europe: A Holocaust Survivor Speaks
November 30, 2016	8:30-9:45 am	SCJ Conference Center	Rector’s Conference Sister Rose’s Passion: A Film
March	Jewish Humor Month Programs to be determined		

March 28-29th

SHSST

Lux Center Symposium on Interreligious Dialogue

March 28th—Evening

SHSST Lobby

Public Program

March 29th—Dehon Lecture

SCJ’s Conference Center

Full Day Symposium with

Keynote speakers including

Fr. John Crossin & others TBD

Synagogue visits (2-3 dates will be chosen to invite seminarians to area synagogues for

a

Sabbath or

holiday service)

A Community Program Worth Attending

Acclaimed author and historian, Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, **Dr. Deborah Lipstadt**, will share her amazing story of Holocaust history on trial prior to the release in two weeks of the major motion picture “Denial.”

Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Cardinal Stritch University, 6801 N. Yates Road, Milwaukee
To R.S.V.P. contact AshleighL@MilwaukeeJewish.org or call 414-390-5741.

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