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Ecumenical dialogue and interreligious dialogue are a journey that is made with the people: whether they are: Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Baha'i or of any other ethnic group or religion. It is a journey that both nourishes and overcomes the trajectory outlined by the necessary discussions among theologians.

The 'Holy Year of Mercy has closed, but leaves us with these words of Pope Francis, which are an extraordinary indication of the way forward, in order to build a cosmopolitan and peaceful society. Francis' visit to Lesbos to be among the immigrants with Bartholomew I and Hieronymos; the first meeting in a thousand years took place in Cuba between Francis and Kirill; the Pope's "Lutheran" journey to Lund; Francis' visit to the Waldensian Church in Turin; Bergoglio's visit to the mosques in Istanbul and Bangui on the day of the inauguration of the Jubilee Year. A powerful weaving of dialogue that, far from diminishing the Christian and Catholic identity, made it flourish, because - Pope Francis reminds us - our religion is the Word, therefore it contains within it the constituent element of dynamic dialogue.

Now, as the Holy Year ends, and exactly at its end, it offers us another small but valuable sign: the interreligious "walk" by three hundred people of various ethnic groups, which included religious and laity: Catholics, Muslims, Baha'is, Buddhists, Hindus, from Japan, Myanmar, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, the United States, Algeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Malta, Poland, Croatia, Belgium, England and Italy, on Friday evening, 18 November. It started from Castel Sant 'Angelo and proceeded along the Via della Conciliazione, to the grave of St John Paul II. It was really moving to see so many Muslims, young men and women wearing the hijab, Baha'is, Buddhists and Hindus, merging into a compact group with Catholics, praying together in the words of the different cultural and religious traditions to the same God of Peace, who had come together to honour the Pope of the Assisi prophecy. And, at the end, singing in unison before the tomb of Wojtyla the Hebrew petition "*Hevenu shalom aleichem*", as 12 lights were distributed to the different religious representatives. At the various "stations" of the procession, along the Via della Conciliazione and in St. Peter's Square, the Christian hymn of "*misericordes sicut Pater*" was interspersed with words by Ghandi as well as the more recent ones uttered by the Lebanese Muslim leader Mohammad Sammak, at the inter-religious encounter in October in Assisi with Pope Francis, who said: "The task of the Muslims today is to defend and purify our faith from criminal exploitation by jihadists".

This inter-religious procession was a small but extraordinarily effective sign, especially because it took shape from below and was realized by people of different religions. The event was organized by Father Peter Baekelmans of SEDOS, with "Religions for Peace" and the Italian Union of Major Superiors, men and women, and other religious orders, it was also attended by some members of the Cenacle of Friends of Pope Francis. Indeed these are the essential conditions for dialogue to grow and take root among a humanity that seems to be on the edge of an abyss.