

The Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines 2014 Annual Convention

September 24–26, 2014
SMX Lanang, Davao City

Theme:

“Set Forth in Faith: Defining the Transformative Role of Catholic Education in a Changing World.”

Prof. Alih Sakaluran. Aiyub

Context...Timeline

Predicament:

- ❖ Historical experiences (deconstruct)
- ❖ Global and local terrorism
- ❖ Science: no longer search for truth but power
- ❖ Secular view: Nature is to be conquered (modernity)—Domination
- ❖ Global warming/climate change (green house gases)
- ❖ Clash of civilizations (Huntington—conditioning)

Promise:

- ❖ Rethinking (post development, postmodernism etc.)
- ❖ Kyoto Convention (to save mother earth)
- ❖ Inter-religious, Interfaith and civilizational dialogue
- ❖ Second Vatican Council
- ❖ Open Letter from Muslim Religious Leaders from around the world to the Pope
- ❖ Peace Process, BBL (local)
- ❖ Multi-Culturalism, Pluralism

Why Inter-religious and Interfaith Dialogue?



Image...sign post





It is because...Religion

- ▶ To justify or legitimate wrong doing
- ▶ For selfish interests
- ▶ For politics, etc
- ▶ As ideology



Human Personality

“Human being is evil by nature.”

“Human being by nature is good, only by institution s/he is made bad.”

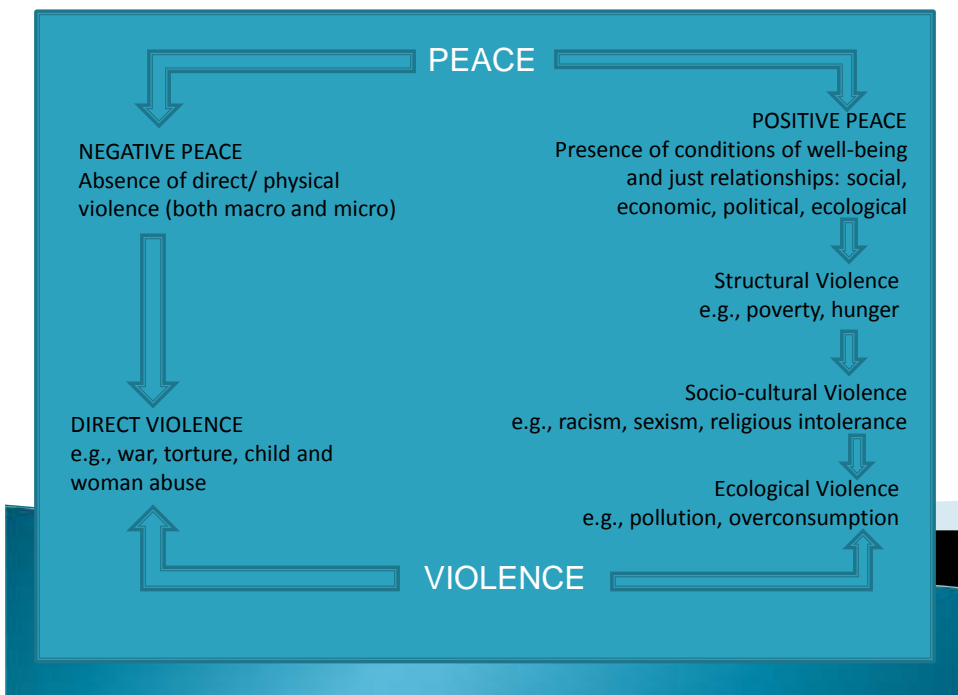
“Human being is endowed with the spark of the divine: love and compassion, but with ego (tendencies).”



Primary Source of Conflict

“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.”

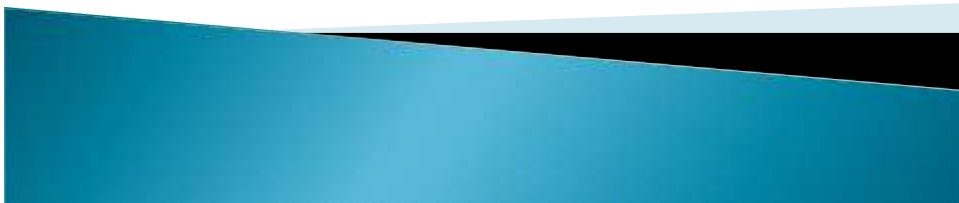
(UNESCO preamble)



Hidden (Inner) Peace

Inner Disharmony
Struggle of Good and Evil

Fitra/Innateness
Conditioning...social environment, etc.



Why Spirituality of Dialogue?



Levels of Religion

All religions have at least three levels: the ceremonial level; the dogma level; and the spiritual level.



People whose understanding of religion is basically on the first two levels may become intolerant of other sects or religions. Wars have been waged due to disagreements on these levels.



The spiritual level is the real heart of a religion. The two layers, ceremonies and belief, can change through the centuries but spirituality is essentially unchanged (like the law governing the whole of creations).

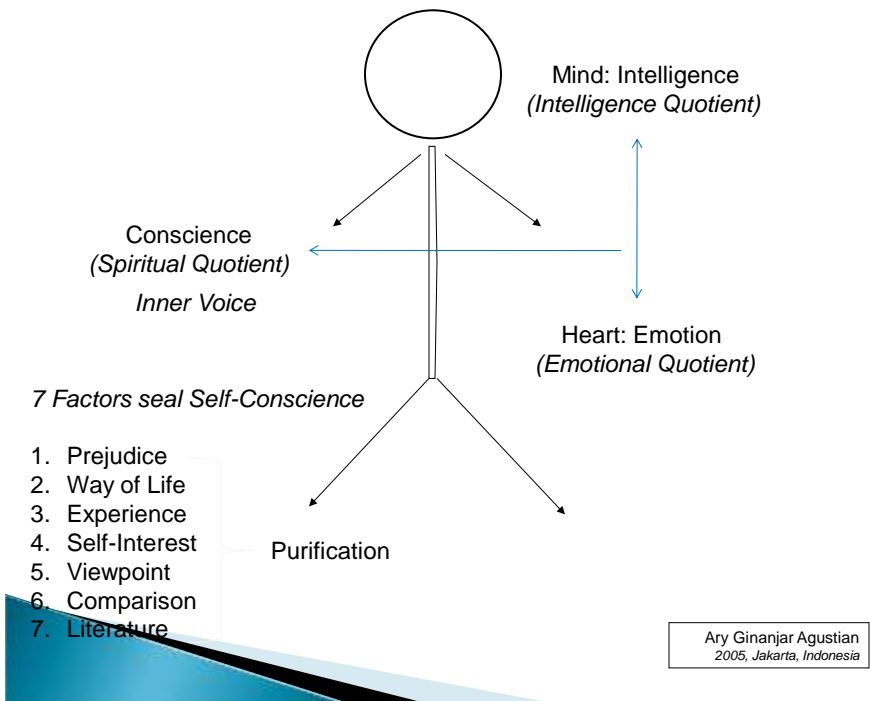


People whose religious life is on the third or spiritual level do not feel threatened by other religions. They see the essential identity of the different religions on this level.



Theological Bases of Dialogue

- ▶ Vertical
- ▶ Horizontal



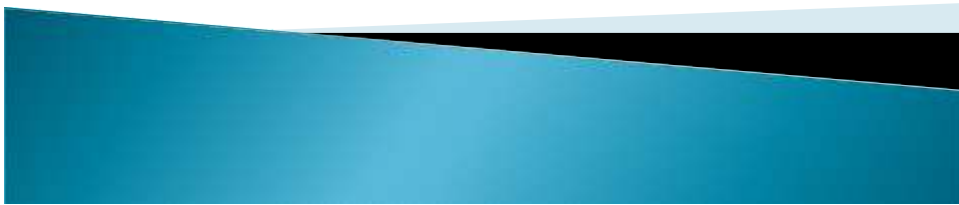
Paths to Peace

Harmony with the Sacred Source

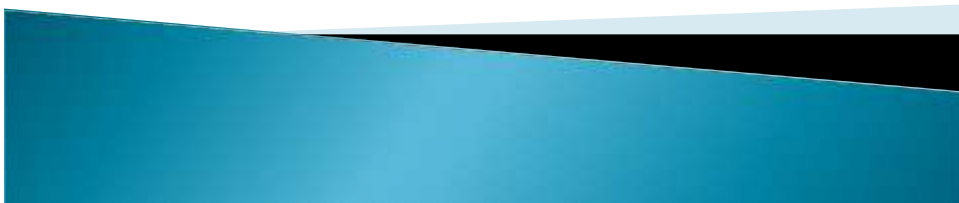
Harmony with the Self

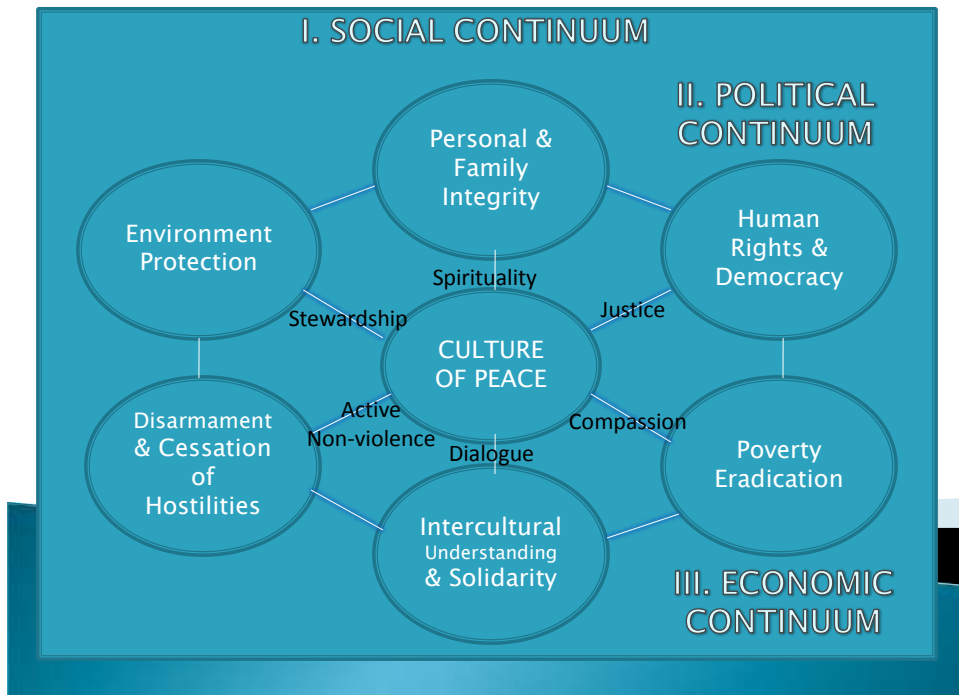
Harmony with Others

Harmony with Nature



Promoting a Culture of Peace





Three Elements in our approach to peace

1. Rejection of violence
2. Love and reconciliation rather than retaliation
3. Use of transforming initiatives

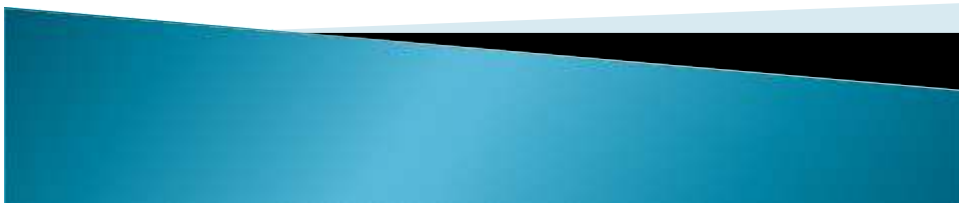
Ending Vicious Cycle of Violence

Reciprocity

Karmic

Law of attraction, magnet

Beyond cause and effect paradigm



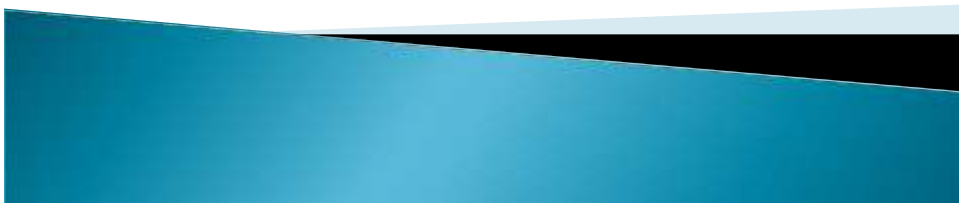
Culture of Dialogue, Path to Peace

Dialogue with God

Dialogue with the Self

Dialogue with Others

Dialogue with Creation



Thanksgiving Square: Guiding Principles:

1. Harmony rather than unity
2. Convergence rather consensus
3. Facilitate rather than organize
4. Trust rather than agreement



Guiding Principles:

1. Sincerity
2. Sensitivity
3. Solidarity
4. Sobriety

Friendship

Jolo Context:

1. Openness
2. Acceptance



Translating the love of God, love of neighbor...



Finding God

Allah will say on the Day of Judgment: O Son/daughter of Adam! I was sick and you did not visit me, I was hungry and you did not feed me, I was naked and you did not clothe me...!

(Hadith Qudsi)

Jesus Christ said:

What you do to the least of my brothers, you do it unto me.

(Bible)




Witnessing...

Gandhi says: *"I do not try to give up my religion to others, but only that they should see God's presence in me."*

Fr. D'Ambra says: *"And that I should see God's presence in them."*

Aiyub says: *"And that I would be a witness between them."*

Jewish says: *"Take off your shoes, for you are treading on holy ground."*



For change...two factors

- ▶ Personal factor
- ▶ Societal factor



Challenges

- ▶ Building institutions
- ▶ Developing human resources
- ▶ Creating enabling environment

“Shape the world or the world shaped us.”

