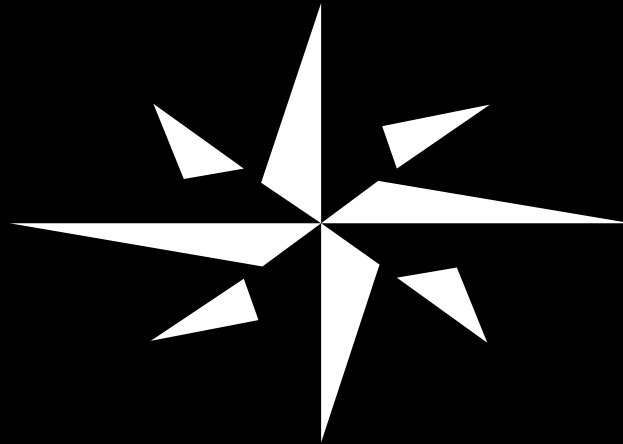


WELCOME

THE INTERFAITH CENTER

CARLOW COLLEGE

PITTSBURGH, PA



SOME DEFINITIONS

- “INTERFAITH CENTER” REFERS TO THE ENTIRE COMPLEX KNOWN AS ST. AGNES CHURCH. THIS BEAUTIFUL CHURCH IS NOW PART OF THE CARLOW CAMPUS. THE CHURCH IS NOW UNDERGOING EXTENSIVE RESTORATION AND WILL SERVE AS THE SITE OF THE INTERFAITH SANCTUARY.
- THE “INTERFAITH SANCTUARY” REFERS TO A SPACE WITHIN THE INTERFAITH CENTER. THE SANCTUARY WILL BE FRAMED BY AN INTERFAITH LIBRARY OF SACRED BOOKS, PRAYER BOOKS AND SACRED ARTIFACTS.
- THE “INTERFAITH PROJECT” REFERS TO THE WORK INVOLVED IN INTERFAITH OUTREACH AND SERVICE TO THE POOR.

THE INTERFAITH PROJECT

THE MISSION STATEMENT

- ***THE INTERFAITH PROJECT AT CARLOW COLLEGE IS A HUMBLE YET IMPORTANT STEP IN HELPING OUR WORLD FIND PEACE IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICT AND DIVISION. OUR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION IS TO PROVIDE A PLACE OF PRAYER, STUDY AND REFLECTION WHERE PEOPLES OF ALL FAITHS AND GOOD WILL CAN FIND RESPECT AND SUPPORT AS THEY SEEK WHAT IS GOOD, TRUE AND HOLY.***
- ***WE WILL SEIZE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PRAY FOR PEACE AS WE STRIVE FOR JUSTICE, TO SEEK WHAT IS TRUE, TO HONOR WHAT IS GOOD. AS WE CELEBRATE WHAT IS HOLY IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL PEOPLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.***

AN OVERVIEW OF THE INTERFAITH PROJECT



- Carlow College is inviting the diverse faith traditions of the world to participate in the installment of an Interfaith Sanctuary in its worship site. The Interfaith Center is an act of reconciliation and healing in a world filled with divisiveness, destruction and misunderstanding. The Center will provide an opportunity to model what it means to be people of diversity and mutual respect.
- We are also privileged as this point in our history to welcome the poor who worship weekly under the guidance of the Shepherd's Heart ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.
- Finally, our Center will provide a beautiful space for dramatic, artistic and musical celebrations and presentations.

THE INTERFAITH PROJECT AT CARLOW COLLEGE

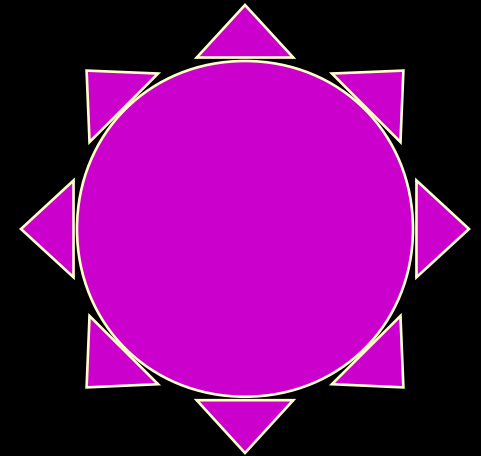
- **The Interfaith Project is the continuing result of many conversations taking place among peoples of diverse faith traditions.**
- **These conversations include international and national organizations such as UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE and THE COUNCIL FOR A PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS.**
- **Conversation with the poor is essential since at the heart of this Interfaith Project is the recognition of the dignity of the person who is poor. Poverty, especially economic poverty, is not the measure of the person. In fact, some of the world's greatest spiritual leaders courageously seized their impoverished state as they contributed greatly to the spiritual understanding of humankind.**
- **Finally, this Catholic Institution of Higher Learning seeks to exercise its understanding of what it means to be "Catholic" by recognizing and rejoicing in God's great gift of human faith and spirituality.**

THE CIRCLES

- ***THE CIRCLE OF WISDOM***
- ***THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS***
- ***THE CIRCLES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE***
- ***THE CIRCLE OF SERVANTS***
- ***THE CIRCLE OF ARTISTS***

THE CIRCLE OF WISDOM

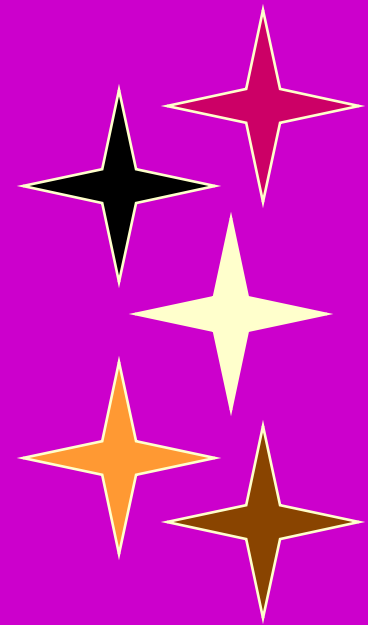
- ***THE CIRCLE OF WISDOM CALLS TOGETHER WOMEN FROM THE VARIOUS FAITH TRADITIONS TO ENGAGE IN FRUITFUL CONVERSATION CONCERNING THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERFAITH PROJECT AT CARLOW COLLEGE. THEY MEET SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR TO ENGAGE IN FRUITFUL CONVERSATION. MORE THAN A CONSULTATIVE GROUP, THIS GATHERING OF INTERFAITH WOMEN PROBES THE DEPTHS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE AND THE LIFE OF INTERFAITH PRACTICE.***



THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

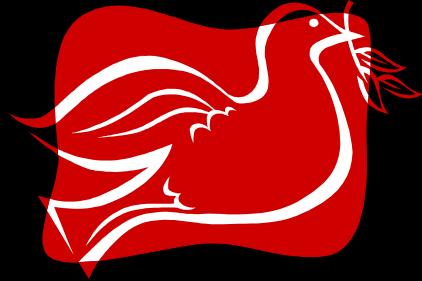
- This is a gathering of women and men from throughout the local community who are engaged in interfaith work and practice.
- This gathering of friends helps to keep the Interfaith Center grounded in the affairs of the greater community.
- ***THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS*** gleans insights from the ***CIRCLE OF WISDOM*** as they cope with the more practical issues of Interfaith Practice (such as the issue of common prayer).

- *CIRCLE*
- *OF*
- *FRIENDS*



THE CIRCLES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

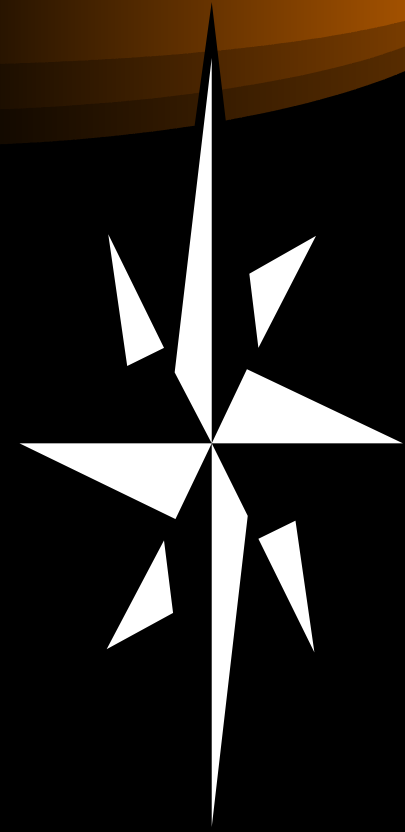
- ***THE CIRCLES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE ARE GROUPS OF WOMEN AND MEN DEDICATED TO MAKING PEACE BY ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE IN EVERY ASPECT OF HUMAN LIFE. THE CIRCLES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE FORM THE CORE OF THE INTERFAITH PROJECT INVITING ALL OF US TO RAISE OUR CONSCIOUSNESS AS WE WORK FOR JUSTICE, PEACE AND RECONCILIATION.***



- ***WOMEN AND MEN DEDICATED TO PEACE-MAKING WILL SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES CHALLENGING ALL OF US TO BE MAKERS OF PEACE THROUGH JUSTICE.***

THE CIRCLE OF SERVICE

- THIS IS A CORE GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS WHO FREELY TAKE UPON THEMSELVES A GIVEN TASK TO BENEFIT THE DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING OF THE INTERFAITH PROJECT AND SANCTUARY.
- THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THIS CIRCLE DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO A PARTICULAR PROJECT SUCH AS RESEARCHING OTHER INTERFAITH CENTERS.
- CREATIVITY, INITIATIVE AND INVENTIVENESS ARE MOST WELCOME.



THE CIRCLE OF ARTISTS

- This is a select group of artists and musicians who have already consulted with us concerning the design of the *INTERFAITH SANCTUARY* and the preservation and enhancement of the artistic significance of St. Agnes Church (in which the *INTERFAITH SANCTUARY*) will be housed.
- We will constantly seek the wise advice and direction of all artists.
- A GATHERING OF POETS WILL DEEPLY BLESS US.



THE INTERFAITH SANCTUARY

- **AFTER SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH *THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS*, THE DECISION WAS MADE TO INSTALL AN INTERFAITH LIBRARY TO FRAME AND DEFINE A SPACE CALLED *THE INTERFAITH SANCTUARY*.**
- **BOOKCASES, DESIGNED TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE EXISTING INTERIOR OF ST. AGNES CHURCH, WILL BE INSTALLED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PRESENT THE SACRED WRITINGS OF THE WORLD TO ALL WHO WOULD ENTER THIS SACRED SPACE.**
- **THE SACRED WRITINGS WILL BE SELECTED BY THE VARIOUS FAITH COMMUNITIES GUIDED BY THE ADVICE AND DIRECTION OF *THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS*.**

THE INTERFAITH SANCTUARY

(CON'T)

- ***THE INTERFAITH LIBRARY WILL ALSO HOUSE THE PRAYERBOOKS OF THE WORLDS FAITH AND SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS. THE BELIEF OF ANY PEOPLE IS DEEPLY REFLECTED AND REVEALED IN THE PRAYER LIFE OF THAT PEOPLE. ALL PARTICIPATING WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE INSPIRED BY THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL AND INTERFAITH PRAYER TRADITION OF ALL PEOPLES.***
- ***FINALLY, THE INTERFAITH LIBRARY WILL HOUSE COMMENTARIES BY WOMEN ANCIENT AND MODERN. WE SEEK TO DISCERN WOMEN'S VOICE IN ANCIENT TEXT AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY.***
- ***THE SACRED BOOKS AND ARTIFACTS OF THE GREAT FAITH TRADITIONS OF THE WORLD WILL FRAME AND CONSTITUTE THE SACRED SPACE DESIGNATED *THE INTERFAITH SANCTUARY* BE THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS ON APRIL 27, 2003.***

THE ALTAR OF ALL WOMEN

Yes, it is time to examine the past with courage, to assign responsibility where it is due in a review of the long history of humanity. Women have contributed to that history as much as men and, more often than not, they did in much more difficult conditions. I think particularly of those women who loved culture and art, and devoted their lives to them in spite of the fact that they were frequently at a disadvantage from the start, excluded from equal educational opportunities, underestimated, ignored and not given credit for their intellectual contributions. Sadly, very little of women's achievements in history can be registered by the science of history. But even though time may have buried the documentary evidence of those achievements, their beneficent influence can be felt as a force which has shaped the lives of successive generations, right up to our own. To this great, immense feminine "tradition" humanity owes a debt which can never be repaid. Yet how many women have been and continue to be valued more for their physical appearance than for their skill, their professionalism, their intellectual abilities, their deep sensitivity; in a word, the very dignity of their being!

**Letter of John Paul II to Women
June 29, 1995**

THE ALTAR OF ALL WOMEN

THE INSTALLATION

- ***THE ALTAR OF ALL WOMEN*** WILL REST IN THE CENTER OF THE INTERFAITH CENTER AT THE EDGE OF THE INTERFAITH SANCTUARY AS A TRIBUTE TO ALL WOMEN WHO HAVE SUFFERED FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE AND PEACE.
- ALL VISITORS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, ARE INVITED TO PLACE THEIR HANDS ON THIS ALTAR AS A SIGN OF SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE WOMEN OF HISTORY WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE GREAT SPIRITUAL HERITAGE OF HUMANKIND BUT WHOSE NAMES ARE LOST.
- ***THE CIRCLE OF WISDOM*** WILL ESTABLISH THIS ALTAR IN A SACRED CEREMONY DESIGNED FOR THE OCCASION.

THE BOOK OF ALL PEOPLES

- **SEVERAL MEMBERS FROM *THE CIRCLE OF SERVANTS* WILL DEVELOP A DESIGN AND PHILOSOPHY FOR *THE BOOK OF ALL PEOPLES*.**
- **VISITORS AND PARTICIPANTS ARE INVITED TO RECORD THEIR ON-GOING OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS ON BEAUTIFUL PAGES OF LOOSE PARCHMENT WHICH IN TIME WILL BE BOUND TO FORM THE VOLUMES OF THIS SACRED BOOK. EVERY NINETY-NINE PAGES WILL BE CONSIDERED TO BE A COMPLETE VOLUME.**
- ***THE BOOK OF ALL PEOPLES* WILL ORDINARILY REST NEAR *THE ALTAR OF ALL WOMEN*.**
- ***THE CIRCLE OF WISDOM* AND *THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS* WILL REFLECT AND CONVERSE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROJECT.**

THE INTERNATIONAL PRAYER PROJECT

- ***PARTICIPANTS FROM *THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS* HAVE INITIATED *THE INTERNATIONAL PRAYER PROJECT FOR INTERFAITH PEACE, LOVE, JUSTICE AND UNDERSTANDING.****
- **A LIST OF PRAYER COMPANIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IS CONTINUOUSLY GROWING.**
- ***THE CIRCLE OF WISDOM* WILL PONDER THE NATURE OF INTERFAITH PRAYER EVEN AS WE NOW PRAY FOR GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT SUCH A PRAYER FORM MIGHT BE.**
- **THERE WILL BE A SIMPLE PRAYER EVERY WEDNESDAY AT NOON (EST) IN THE INTERFAITH SANCTUARY AS OTHERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD PAUSE TO PRAY WITH US.**

THE DAUGHTERS AND SONS OF ABRAHAM



- **For several years now, the program known as *THE DAUGHTERS AND SONS OF ABRAHAM*, has conducted many programs throughout the Pittsburgh region. Jewish, Christians and Muslim participants offer substantial reflections on various religious subjects. Audience participation is more than encouraged. In a very real sense, the Interfaith Project at Carlow College continues in the tradition of the Daughters and Sons of Abraham.**
- **It is only fitting that a significant part of the Interfaith Center be dedicated to the Daughters and Sons of Abraham.**

THE GEORGE H. TAVARD ECUMENICAL READING CHAPEL

- **It is an understatement to say that Fr. George Tavard is beloved by the Carlow community. His work and legacy are a rich contribution to the Catholic Church and the Ecumenical efforts of the modern church. Carlow was blessed to have Fr. Tavard on the faculty as it is blessed to have him as a friend.**
- **The Choir Chapel behind the High Altar will be refurbished to house THE GEORGE H. TAVARD ECUMENICAL READING CHAPEL offers his books and articles as well as pertinent ecumenical materials for study and reflection.**
- **The Interfaith Project must be aware of the fractures within the Christian Community. The modern Christian Church is an ecumenical church seeking to repair the damage suffered by disunion and mistrust.**

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PEACE ***SEPTEMBER 21***

- ***THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION STATEMENT***

To encourage the observation of a worldwide, 24-hour vigil for peace and non-violence on the *International Day of Peace*, 21 September in every house of worship and place of spiritual practice, by all religious and spiritually based groups and individuals and by all men, women and children who seek peace in the world.

**THE INTERFAITH CENTER AT CARLOW IS PLEASE TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE “INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER”
SPONSORED BY THE UNITED NATIONS.**

THE INSTITUTES

(YEARLY SEMINARS)

- THE INSTITUTE FOR THE PRACTICE OF INTERFAITH SPIRITUALITY
- THE INSTITUTE FOR THE DISCERNING OF WOMEN'S VOICE IN ANCIENT TEXTS AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY
- THE FESTIVAL OF INTERFAITH CHILDREN
- THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND VIOLENCE