

Title:

The role of new movements in the growth of interfaith dialogue in the post-Second Vatican Council

Abstract

The paper proposes to study the shift of attitude towards people of other religions which had taken place in the Catholic Church with the Second Vatican Council, starting with *Gaudium et Spes*, *Ad Gentes* and *Nostra Aetate* and continued in the following five decades. A specific attention will be given to the practical experiences promoted by Catholic leaders (Chiara Lubich, Andrea Riccardi), founders of new ecclesial Movements (*Sant'Egidio Community* and *Focolare Movement*). They were instrumental in contextualising the process of opening towards faithful of other religions which was proposed by new institutional positions in the Church hierarchy and by gestures by the popes (Assisi 1986, 2002 and 2011 and more recent events promoted by pope Francis) Particular attention will be given also to the role that renewal movements played in making interfaith dialogue relevant at the grassroots level, contributing to other types of initiatives which are important tools to address the emergency created by recent migration waves and the impelling necessity of a constructive integration of migrants into Europe.

Data will be collected from three main sources:

- Publications available on recent renewal Movements,
- Official web-sites which carry significant experiences and projects realized in different parts of Europe and of the world
- Interviews with members of the two movements engaged directly in dialogue enterprises and projects

The aim of the paper is to examine specific aspects of the two renewal movements with special highlights of commonalities and their role in fulfilling at different levels the guide-lines offered by Catholic Church documents and Popes' initiatives.

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