

**The relation of the Catholic Church to non-Christian religions**

How does the Catholic Church regard non-Christian religions? What is the task of the Church with regard to non-Christian religions? What does the Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium* mean when it refers to elements of truth found in non-Christian religions as "preparation for the gospel"?

Discuss this statement by Blessed Pope John Paul II: *"But the various non-christian religions are, above all, the expression of a search on the part of man, while the Christian Faith is based on a Revelation on God's part. And in this consists Christianity's essential difference from other religions, whatever the elements they might have in common."* (John Paul II, Audience of 5 June 1985)

What has been your experience in interacting with friends, neighbors, or co-workers of different faiths? Our duty as Christians is to co-exist peacefully with others, to understand and live the True Faith as fully as we possibly can, and to proclaim the True Faith to the world as a gift and treasure. How do we fulfill this duty in our own lives?