

Catholic-Buddhist Dialogue in Chicago mourns the death of Jean-Louis Cardinal Tauran

July 7, 2018

By Very Rev. Thomas A. Baima

The Archdiocesan Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the Catholic-Buddhist Dialogue in Chicago, is sad to announce the death of His Eminence, Jean-Louis Cardinal Tauran, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Cardinal Tauran provided important leadership in the vital area of interreligious dialogue during the time when globalization fostered an increase in the mixing of cultures, especially in Europe and North America. With this mixing came tensions. His was a clear voice for the dignity of the human person and the solidarity of the human community. His articulation of the right to religious freedom in all societies was strong, as was his call for dialogue as a relational path of understanding.

The Catholic-Buddhist Dialogue in Chicago is the direct result of Cardinal Tauran's invitation to local Catholic and Buddhist religious leaders in the United States to attend the Castel Gandolfo encounter in 2015. Since then, we in Chicago have continued our local dialogue, animated by that experience and the words of the Holy Father to sow seeds of understanding and to overcome division through common works of charity. Our dialogue continues to seek ways to address urban violence as our principal work together. This is one fruit of Cardinal Tauran's ministry.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.