

# Maxims for Mutuality

## Principles for Catholic Theology, Education and Preaching about Jews and Judaism

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1. Honor the Catholic Church's commitment "to genuine brotherhood with the people of the Covenant," whose covenantal life with the Ever-Faithful One is enduring.
2. Remember that your work as an educator, theologian, or preacher affects the living Jewish community of today.
3. You shall not suggest that Judaism and Christianity are opposing religions or engage in oppositional thinking about their relationship.
4. You shall not theologize about Jews or Judaism without first dialoguing with Jewish interlocutors who do not share the Christian faith or without consulting texts ... written by those who have experience of contemporary Judaism.
5. Remember to keep holy the sacred space of Catholic-Jewish study and dialogue. You shall study and dialogue with Jews in order to learn and not as a pretext for conversionary efforts.
6. You shall be humble before the freedom of the One who covenants with both the People Israel and the Church and whose intentions for creation have yet to be fully realized.
7. You shall not consider or present the historical development of Christian theology without reference to related developments in the post-biblical Jewish community.
8. You shall not advance any Christian narrative of salvation-history that overlooks or discounts Jewish covenantal life.
9. You shall not restrict the saving action of God's Word, united with Jesus the Jew, to the Christian revelation.
10. Remember, you are not competent to decide who is Jewish and who is not. Jewish identity is to be defined by Jews themselves.



God of our fathers,  
you chose Abraham and his descendants  
to bring your Name to the Nations:  
we are deeply saddened  
by the behaviour of those  
who in the course of history  
have caused these children of yours to suffer,  
and asking your forgiveness  
we wish to commit ourselves  
to genuine brotherhood  
with the people of the Covenant.

Jerusalem, 26 March 2000

*Joannes Paulus II*