

Scienza della Spiritualità



Consulta Nazionale Interreligiosa  
e delle Istituzioni Tradizionali



*Sarà apprezzata la presenza della S.V. cordialmente invitata all'Assise  
che si terrà presso l'Auditorium dell'Istituto S. Leone Magno*

*Via Bolzano, 38 (S. Costanza) Roma*

*Martedì 1 Novembre 1994 alle ore 16,30 sul tema:*

**“MEDITAZIONE E VITA IN CITTÀ”**

(Incontro Comparativo Teorico-Esperenziale)

— si prega di osservare la puntualità —

Coordinator: **Maria Immacolata Maciotti** is professor of Sociology at "La Sapienza" University in Rome. Since 1992-93 she also teaches Sociology of Religion. She is the authoress of "Faith, mistery, magic", "Letters to an extra-sensorial perceptive person" "Mythes and magics of herbs", "Magician and magic in nowadays Italy.

## RELATORS

**ACHAAN THANAVARO** is president of the Italian Buddhist Union. He belongs to the Theravada of the Forest Tradition, a Buddhist tradition that came originally from Thailand and is now famous also in the West thanks to the great master Achaam Chah, who died recently and his American disciple Achaan Sumedho, the founder of the first monasteries of the forest for Western monks.

One of Achaan Sumedho's disciples, the venerable Thanavaro is abbot of the first Italian Vihara, the Santacittarama, or "garden of the serene heart", based on the model of the Thai monasteries.

**Fr. ANTHONY GENTILI** belongs to the Congregation of the Barnabites and lives in Spiritual Exercises Center in Eupilio (Como), where he has already passed a long period of study in practice and teaching of meditation, with other aspects of christian initiation and formation. He has reserved a particular attention of the traditional meditations of Asia (zazen and vipassan), in the light of the interreligious dialogue. Care of Editing Ancora of Milan the series "Rediscovering the centre", in which he has *God in silence* (1986, seven editions; translated in english this year), and also "Insight the mystery", with essays on christina exoterism and the depth aspects of the religious experience.

**WENDY BIK** has been the italian coordinator for the BKWSU for twelve years. The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University teaches meditation and spiritual knowledge in over

2000 centres worldwide; it has no political, financial or religious affiliation. Since its foundation in 1937, the aim of the University has been to promote personal experience of peace and happiness through the understanding of the power of the mind, and through meditation to develop a direct and personal link with God. Thanks to this relationship, the person receives the strenght to transform the self and his or her life.

**GIOVANNI LENTO** is member of the Internazionale Bahà'i Community and of the European Youth Council. He has participated as speaker in many conferences on a national and international level. The goal of all Bahà'is efforts is the lasting and peaceful cooperation of all the peoples of the earth, in the full respect of their diversities.

The Bahà'i World Community is accredited as a non — political and non — governmental organization with consultative status at the United Nations and at the EEC. It cooperates with UNESCO and UNICEF. Its contributions are based on the Bahà'i teachings and the knowledge gained from the Bahà'i world community, in which over 1900 ethnic groups are represented.

**SERGIO TRIPI** is president of the cultural association "Triangoli e buona volonta Mondiale", a non lucrative organization that pursues the renewal of conscience through meditation and service to humanity. The association cooperates with the international movement of "Buona Volontà Mondiale", a non governmental organization with offices in New

York, London and Geneva, recognized by the United Nations and included in the roster of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

**PASQUALE CHIARO** has been practising meditation for about a decade. He conducts retreats based on meditation within a day of silence.

P. Chiaro is founder and editor of "Appunti di viaggio" (Travel Diary), a bimonthly magazine on meditation and spiritual research.

**SANT RAJINDER SINGH** is president of the World Community of Religions and guide of "Scienza della Spiritualità", a non lucrative international organization devoted to peace, unity and service to humanity. Its main offices are in New Delhi, India, and it has over 800 centres scattered throughout the world. The meditation system taught by master Rajinder is natural and simple, free, accessible to all, young and old, healthy and ill, and does not require special positions and ascetic training. It involves concentrating on the energy centre known as "Third eye" or "single eye" situated between and behind the eyebrows. Every year Sant Rajinder Singh organizes two international conferences in New Delhi: the Conference on Human Integration and the Global Conference on Mysticism in which thousands of people and political and religious personalities from all over the world take part. In february 1994 he acted as chairperson for the World Conference of Religions in which the Dalai Lama, Pir Vilayat Khan master of the Sufis, and Father Maximilian Mizzi, a franciscan delegate of the Vatican took part.

Egregio Signore,

la consapevolezza della situazione presente ha indotto i promotori della Consulta Nazionale Interreligiosa e delle Istituzioni Tradizionali a concepire uno strumento che consenta di incrementare il livello e gli obiettivi del dialogo e del confronto fra le confessioni religiose, le organizzazioni interessate alla ricerca sul piano della spiritualità e gli esponenti del mondo laico maggiormente sensibili alle problematiche del confronto fra le culture aliene.

Per questa ragione la Consulta intende accogliere fra i suoi membri esponenti di rilievo del mondo confessionale, accademico, culturale e dell'informazione i quali intendano investire nel dialogo e nel confronto come valore culturale, al fine di compiere un'opera di documentazione ed informazione che possa valere come antidoto alla ricaduta nei particolarismi ed alla chiusura degli orizzonti.

A tal fine, nell'inviare la copia dello Statuto ed auspicando la Sua partecipazione all'iniziativa, La invitiamo a prendere contatto col Comitato Promotore all'indirizzo sotto indicato. Qualora poi desiderasse ulteriori chiarimenti circa la finalità della Consulta, La invitiamo a contattare i sotto riportati numeri telefonici.

Distinti saluti

Il Segretario Organizzativo  
Cardinale Dott. Pasquale

Dear Sir or Madame,

the awareness of the present situation has moved the promoters of the National Interreligious Council and of traditional institutions to conceive of an instrument that would help to increase the level and the objectives of the dialog between the different religions, the organizations devoted to spiritual research and the members of the secular world that are sensitive to the problems involved in communicating between alien cultures.

For this reason the Council welcomes people of prominence from different religions, universities, cultural environments and the media who serve as an antidote to particularism and close-mindedness.

To this end, we send you a copy of the Statute and hope you'll take part in this cooperation and invite you to contact the Organizing Committee at the here-inclosed adress.

The Council is at your disposal for any further information you may require.

Best regards

The Secretary  
Cardinale Dott. Pasquale

Consulta Nazionale Interreligiosa e delle Istituzioni Tradizionali  
Segreteria Organizzativa Via Agordat, 8 - 00199 Roma - Tel. 06/9065958 - 86215641 - Fax 86215641

# NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS COUNCIL AND OF TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS

## Abridged version of the Statute

Humanity's present condition has produced sudden changes that in the past few decades have overcome theological, cultural and ideological barriers that prevented full communication between the peoples of the world. Entering the year 2000, it's nowadays customary that exponents of different traditions publicly compare their positions in order to enrich each other.

The association named "National Interreligious Council and of Traditional Institutions", with offices in Rome, aims at intensifying the dialogue among different religions and Spiritual Organizations so as to achieve fruitful actions in view of the preservation of peace and the defense of the multicultural aspects of society.

*Art. 1 - The association is a non - Lucrative and non - political organization that has the following aims:*

- a) Improve the chances of dialogue between the representatives of different religions and the exponents of universities, cultural environments, and socially committed people who aims at the spiritual development of humanity, the preservation of peace and the defense of freedom of conscience and religion.
- b) Contribute, as much as possible, to the attenuation of eventual religious conflicts or frictions through an open comparison of different positions.
- c) Offer to the Italian public access to correct information about the various religions and stop the spreading of prejudices fostered by those who condemn what they do not understand or see as "alien".

- d) Create didactic activities that could spread the achievements of the history of religions outside their specific field.
- e) Contrast on a cultural and informative level and, if necessary, through legal action, any tendencies aimed at subordinating a full acquisition of social rights to the subduing of a professed religion.
- f) Fight any form of religious discrimination and defend anyone, regardless of religious affiliation, who has suffered for his/her beliefs.
- g) Cooperate with political groups, lawyers, Governmental agencies to promote a law on religious freedom which, in the long run, will help to overcome the Concordat model any present form of agreement that are no longer sufficient for the complexities of present-day society.

*Art. 2 - The opportunity of associating with the Council is offered to groups or singles, who recognize the existence of a transcendental, absolute reality and want to work towards the evolution of the spiritual principles present in every human being. The consistent profession of personal faith and inner spiritual research must be accompanied by an absolute respect of any other Spiritual Tradition, as well as by a sincere desire of sharing Knowledge.*

*Art. 3 - Those who share these aims and accept this Statute can join the Council. The request must be forwarded to the Organizing Council.*