

WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 7  
3-5 p.m.  
Helena Rubinstein Auditorium

**AFTERNOON ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**  
**The Interfaith Story behind *Nostra Aetate***

2005 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of *Nostra Aetate*, the Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions ratified by the Second Vatican Council in 1965. This document is widely viewed as one of the most significant breakthroughs in Jewish-Christian relations in the history of the church. In its explicit repudiation of the centuries-old “deicide” charge (which holds Jews responsible for the death of Jesus), its condemnation of antisemitism, and its acknowledgement of the enduring validity of Judaism, *Nostra Aetate* opened a new era in interfaith dialogue.

Little is known today about the interfaith efforts during the 1950s that laid the foundation for *Nostra Aetate* and about the discussions in Rome between Catholic and Jewish leaders that had a profound influence on the final document. This panel will analyze the interfaith history of this Catholic document as well as its lasting legacy on interfaith relations and the fight against religious prejudice in the wake of the Holocaust.

**Moderator—Victoria Barnett**, Staff Director, Committee on Church Relations and the Holocaust, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)

***The Role of the American Jewish Committee*—Judith Banki**, Director of Special Programs, Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, New York City

***Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel in Rome*—Eva Fleischner**, Professor Emeritus of Religion, Montclair State University, New Jersey

***Nostra Aetate and Catholic Theology, Church Polity, and Catholic-Jewish Relations*—John T. Pawlikowski**, O.S.M., Professor of Ethics and Director, Catholic-Jewish Studies Program, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Illinois, and President, International Council of Christians and Jews

***The Impact of Nostra Aetate and Vatican II on Protestant-Jewish Relations*—Rev. Christopher P. Leighton**, Executive Director, Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies, Baltimore, Maryland

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