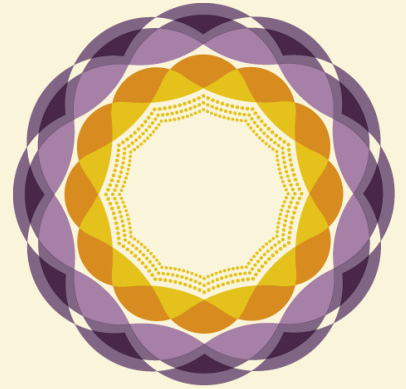


Russell Berrie Fellowship
in Interreligious Studies

ALUMNI GRANT
PROJECTS

2017 - 2019



JOHN PAUL II CENTER
for
INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

About the Russell Berrie Alumni Grant Program

The Russell Berrie Alumni Grant Program was launched in late 2016 to enable Russell Berrie Alumni to develop and carry out innovative, creative, high-quality interreligious dialogue (IRD) and interfaith action projects.

Since the Program's inception, a total of 36 Alumni have been awarded an Alumni Grant, covering 15 countries worldwide. Through individual and joint projects, the award empowers the Alumni to take leadership in promoting interreligious dialogue, peace and positive change in their communities and societies.

"The Alumni grants have played a huge role in my interfaith work for the past two years. Even though they have been relatively time-constrained, finite projects, they have given me the freedom to try out my interfaith ideas and gain the confidence to continue with my work."

-Alumna, Americas

"I asked an Alumna to join me in a project, I collaborated with another Alumna for the organization of a meeting for an interfaith group and I hosted a group led by an Alumnus to hear about work with refugees and IRD."

-Alumna, Europe

· TRAINING PROGRAMS ·

School of Interreligious Journalism

Interreligious Dialogue Training Course for
Female Catholic Graduate Students

Teaching Religious and Cultural Diversity for Catholic
Youth Educators and Religion Teachers

School of Interreligious Journalism

In 2017, Lidiia Batig developed this initiative to equip journalists with skills and tools to cover interfaith issues and portray religion accurately in the media. Its goal was to promote dialogue and fight propaganda and fake news in the media. In the time of war and conflict in Ukraine, this project stood out as a greatly needed, innovative and timely initiative to consolidate the society in the times of crisis and unrest.

The project offered a series of 10 lectures to religious journalists and young professionals writing on religious themes in Ukraine. They also learned about the differences between religious and secular journalism – especially in moral and ethical terms. Lidiia received over 40 applications for the course which could accommodate 25 participants.

One of the key achievements of the project was establishing an active cooperation between religious media in Ukraine and the Department of Religious Journalism at the Ukrainian Catholic University. Lidiia also collaborated with the [Libertas Center](#) of Interconfessional and Interreligious Dialogue in Ukraine, an interconfessional dialogue center founded by another Russell Berrie Alumnus, Taras Dzyubansky.

Due to the success of Lidiia's first Alumni Grant Project, she continued the “School of Interreligious Journalism” for the next 10 months. Her goals for the second round were to deepen the level of academic dialogue and to invite prominent speakers from abroad. During the meetings, participants discussed problems and perspectives of religious journalism and different themes. Students held presentations and took part in roundtable discussions.

In recognition of this outstanding project, Lidiia received a prestigious “[Intercultural Achievement Award 2018](#)” from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria. This project was selected as an exemplar of innovation out of hundreds of other initiatives that were nominated from around the world.

- **Lidiia Batig** is a religious journalist for the online news journal, “Spiritual Greatness of Lviv,” in Ukraine. Lidiia is also a volunteer journalist with the [Libertas Center](#). She serves as a media representative for the MasterPeace Lviv Club and is a Youth Web Resource for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church “Dyven Svit”.





Sr. Purobi Paschalina Chiran
Bangladesh



Interreligious Dialogue Training Course for Female Catholic Graduate Students

Sister Purobi Paschalina Chiran's project involved training Catholic University female graduate students in Bangladesh about other religions, including Hinduism, Islam and Catholic theology. The project also focused on instilling confidence in the young women by teaching them about "the dialogue of life, the spirituality of dialogue, and the dialogue beyond their own community." Sister Paschalina indicated that for many of the women, this was the first time they were learning about these concepts due to the patriarchal nature of their society and thus it was an opportunity for empowerment.

44 students participated in the first training in January 2018 and 56 students participated in the second training in October 2018.

- **Sister Purobi Paschalina Chiran** is an appointed member of the Interreligious Dialogue Commission of Bangladesh responsible for directly convening conferences and meetings between those of other faiths within Christianity.



Teaching Religious and Cultural Diversity for Catholic Youth Educators and Religion Teachers

In the Spring 2017 at the Sacred Heart Basilica in Rome, Elena Dini and Elena Tadiello, taught a course aimed at providing religion teachers and Catholic youth educators with tools to teach students and youngsters about religious and cultural diversity. The course was organized in partnership with the parish and the office of the Vicariate of Rome in charge of the teaching of Catholic religion in schools.

50 teachers attended three seminars. The first focused on Judaism with Rabbi Jack Bemporad from Angelicum as the main speaker, the second focused on Islam with Prof. Adnane Mokrani from the Gregorian University and the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI), and the third focused on the issue of migrants and refugees with Lawyer Andrea Pecoraro from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees.

Each seminar provided time for frontal lessons, question and answer sessions and practical time for discussing and experiencing educational dynamics. After a short introduction on the Catholic position on religious and cultural diversity, the seminar examined more closely key elements that would be helpful for a teacher to know in order to facilitate open positive conversations with students and be more adequately equipped to tackle challenging topics with young people.

News about the course were published on the Catholic blog [VinoNuovo](#) and on Catholic [Radio Più](#).

- **Elena Dini** previously worked as the managing editor of a news website targeting Muslim communities in Italy and currently works in the communications department of a Catholic institution. She regularly writes about interfaith issues and is called by academic institutions to give seminars on this topic. She is active in the field of refugee integration in Rome and runs a series of interfaith meetings for young Italians and refugees.
- **Elena Tadiello** takes part every year in the organization of Missionary-Interreligious Vigil of the Diocese of Vicenza supporting the Bishop and Diocese of Multan, Pakistan in a humanitarian dialogue with Islam. She works with the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea and collaborates with the Diocese of Rome on different pastoral projects, including supporting homeless people of different religions.



· SEMINARS · CONFERENCES ·
· LECTURES · DIALOGUES ·

Asia

Conference on Emerging Challenges of Interreligious
Dialogue, Manila, Philippines

Educating Clergy about Interreligious Dialogue, Tamil Nadu, India
Fostering Interfaith Action and Academic Research
in Communities, India & Bangladesh

Europe

Conference on the History of Greek Jews' Relationship with Greek
Orthodox and Roman Catholic Communities, Corfu, Greece

Interreligious Centre for Sustainable Development (ICSD)

Conference on the North American Tradition of Pluralism and
Interfaith Coexistence, Rome, Italy

United States

Fostering Interfaith Dialogue in Middletown, Connecticut

Interfaith Annual Lecture at Archdiocese of
St. Paul & Minneapolis, Minnesota

Building an Interfaith Seminarian Network in
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Conference on Emerging Challenges of Interreligious Dialogue April, 2019

This is a joint project organized by three Alumni from the Philippines, Val Brillo, Fr. Richard Babao and Philip Fuentes. The conference is being organized in coordination with the faculty of the Institute of Religion of the University of Santo Tomas, Manila. The conference will explore the philosophy of interreligious dialogue as well as feature a panel discussion with academic and religious representatives from different faiths. It will conclude with a cultural presentation. The audiences attending will be the diplomatic and academic communities, religious organizations, clergy, students and grassroots leaders.

Val, Fr. Richard and Philip are organizing the conference as a preamble to establishing the John Paul II Center for Interreligious Dialogue of the Philippines which will work to promote interreligious dialogue in the country and surrounding Asian countries. The Center will prepare and coordinate conferences, forums and will collaborate with the John Paul II Center in Rome. Their vision is that the center will forge linkages with different religious centers and organizations across the Philippines and Asia to establish a cohesive ground work for interreligious dialogue.

- **Val Brillo** is an Assistant Professor with the Institute of Religion of the University of Santo Tomas. As a theology faculty member with specialization in IRD, he works as consultant to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission on Interreligious Dialogue.
- **Fr. Richard Babao** is Assistant Minister at the Ministry for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs of Manila and an instructor of Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue at San Carlos Seminary, Makati City.
- **Philip Fuentes** is an assistant professor at the University of Santo Tomas involved with various interreligious peace-building initiatives at the pastoral level. He's also a volunteer-consultant at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Commission on Interreligious Dialogue. He's currently working on his Ph.D. Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Educating Clergy about Interreligious Dialogue Seminar Series: 2017-2019

Fr. Michael's project in 2017 was conducted in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Bishops Conference Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism and Diocesan Commission for Interreligious Dialogue. The program consisted of six seminars over six months targeting priests, religious sisters, catechists as well as people from other Christian denominations, and the Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Jain communities. The programs were held at the diocese and regional level and were designed to educate participants on each others' religion and promote peace between them through active dialogue. 140 individuals participated.

In the second round of this project in 2018, Fr. Michael continued his efforts, expanding the program to ten additional dioceses. The target audience was also expanded to include youth.



- **Fr. Michael Thangaraj** is the General Secretary of the Inter-Religious Dialogue Commission in Tamil Nadu in the Catholic Circle that includes 22 dioceses.

Fr. Michael Thangaraj
India



**Dr. Sr. Vimal Jyothy,
Sr. Gracy Joseph Vadakara &
Sr. Purobi Paschalina Chiran**
India and Bangladesh

Fostering Interfaith Action and Academic Research in Communities

This project is organized by two alumni from India, Dr. Sr. Vimal Jyothy and Sr. Gracy Joseph, and one alumna from Bangladesh, Sr. Paschalina Purobi Chiran. Their vision is to forge positive relationships and build bridges among Christians, Hindus and Muslims through fruitful dialogue and discussions. The hope is that these dialogues can result in solidarity, peace and harmony in local communities.

The project will consist of organizing and leading conferences on IRD subjects and issues to various communities; conducting lectures on IRD in academic and health care settings, and writing and publishing articles and materials in newsletters and other social media.

- **Dr. Sr. Vimal Jyothy** is a General Physician in General Hospital in Ranchi Jharkhand, India. She is also Director of the ISHOMS Trust which works with underprivileged and tribal populations. Her hope is to develop an Interreligious Dialogue and Community Centre to help these populations.
- **Sr. Gracy Joseph Vadakara** is the Superior of the Daughters of the Church, her community in Kerala, India, which has a focus on Christian unity and interreligious dialogue in India. Sr. Gracy is the manager of a school serving Muslim, Hindu and Christian students.
- **Sister Purobi Paschalina Chiran** is an appointed member of the Interreligious Dialogue Commission of Bangladesh responsible for directly convening conferences and meetings between those of other faiths within Christianity.

Conference on the History of Greek Jews' Relationship with Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic Communities

Fr. Robert plans to organize a conference on the history and the contribution of Greek Jews in Corfu society and the relationship between the Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Jewish communities from the past until the present. The conference will enlighten participants about the historical relationship between these communities in everyday life. Hopefully, the result will be a better understanding of common history that will promote collaboration between the communities which have formed the present society of the Corfu Island.

- **Fr. Robert Ioan Reikli** is charged with the pastoral care of Catholic communities on the mainland Preveza and Ioannina in Greece. He is head of the Caritas Corfu, a local chapter of a global charitable organization. He is also a vice-parish priest in the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Saints James and Christopher in Corfu town.



William Stainsby
Ireland

Interreligious Centre for Sustainable Development (ICSD)

William Stainsby established a mobile Interreligious Centre for Sustainable Development (ICSD) which will provide a cultural space to bring together faith groups, religious leaders, teachers and scientists. Its purpose will be to advance sustainable development through sincere advocacy, education, and action-based programming. Towards this end it will offer workshops for men, women and students from diverse religious backgrounds together with those engaged in the arts, sciences and politics. Thus its programmes will connect leaders of faith with the wider cultural and scientific communities to discuss how the impact of climate change intersects with religion.

- **William Stainsby** is a lecturer, writer/author and Director of the Centre for Faith & Culture in the Republic of Ireland.

Fr. Robert Ioan Reikli
Romania/ Greece





Paola Bernardini
Italy

Conference on the North American Tradition of Pluralism and Interfaith Coexistence May 4th-11th 2017

Paola Bernardini organized this conference in Rome, Italy to share the best practices of the North American interfaith tradition of coexistence. An overview of the North American tradition of pluralism for interfaith coexistence was presented at the conference from a multi-disciplinary perspective: historical, theological, philosophical, legal and sociological. It offered perspectives to counteract actions by European governments which have established closed border policies and tightened citizenship laws due to the recent influx of migrants and refugees (mostly Muslim) into their countries. These policies have created an atmosphere of intolerance and interfaith tensions.

The seminar was co-sponsored by the Fondazione Sinderesi and attended by 50 students enrolled in the Global Governance through Interreligious Dialogue Program at LUISS University in Rome (Italy). Georgette Bennett, President and Founder of the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding was one of the key-speakers. An excerpt of the lectures was published in a collected volume entitled "La Strada Giusta. L'Equità come Pratica," by Luiss University Press (2017).

- **Paola Bernardini** currently teaches Christian-Muslim Encounter in the Global Perspective Program of Holy Cross College (Notre Dame) and regularly leads field-trip experiences to Dearborn, Michigan, home of the largest Arab-American community in the United States. She's taken part in many interfaith dialogue with international constituencies as a member of the Holy See Catholic Delegation. She's been the recipient of the ECIS International Understanding Award, the Notre Dame Global Collaborative Initiative Award, and an Interfaith Youth Core Curriculum Development mini-grant.





Fostering Interfaith Dialogue in Middletown, Connecticut

For this project, Allyson Zacharoff explored different ways to support and expand interfaith dialogue in Middletown, Connecticut. The project involved first getting to know the community and projects already underway, and then working with local partners in order to organize an interreligious dialogue event that could help support work already going on locally. The main event took place in March 2018 at Wesleyan University, and presented an opportunity for local community members, clergy, and students to gather for a dinner and dialogue facilitated by Allyson. Around 60 people attended, displaying a great deal of excitement for the opportunity to engage with their neighbors in this way. As a result, a desire to strengthen local clergy relations emerged. In May 2018 a clergy luncheon was held locally to foster interfaith clergy relationships.

The program was organized as part of the ACWAY (“A Common Word Among the Youth”) network, an international coalition of young people committed to interfaith and intercultural projects that was established in 2015. Please see an article on the first dialogue event: <http://wesleyanargus.com/2018/04/06/university-hosts-interfaith-dialogue-and-discussion-with-local-religious-groups/>

- **Allyson Zacharoff** is currently pursuing rabbinic ordination at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. Allyson was a Conflict Resolution Fellow at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, and an International Peacemaking Fellow at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. She also works for the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees. In her free time, Allyson blogs about her interfaith life on her blog, [Of Christmas and Kreplach](#).



Interfaith Annual Lecture at Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sarah Chamseddine's project is to plan and organize an inaugural lecture in interreligious studies in conjunction with the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the University of St. Thomas Center for Campus Ministry, and the Jay Philips Center for Interfaith Learning. The lecture will feature the research conducted by fellow Berrie Alumna Ali Chamseddine on the role of sacred scripture from the three monotheistic religions in fostering coexistence and dialogue. Prior to the lecture, a dinner will be hosted. Invited guests will include scholars of interreligious dialogue, clergy and seminarians in their work. The dinner will be an opportunity for intimate discussion of the topic and networking among those present. The projected outcome of the experience is further conversations and potential initiatives for interreligious dialogue to be developed by those in attendance.

- **Sarah Chamseddine** is the Program Manager in the Center for Campus Ministry at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul Minnesota. She designs, implements and manages multi-faith, ecumenical and interfaith opportunities at the university for students, faculty and staff. She is also a member of the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Sarah Chamseddine
United States of America



Allyson Zacharoff
United States of America

Building an Interfaith Seminarian Network in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Allyson Zacharoff, who is studying to become a Rabbi, is seeking to develop an interfaith network of seminarians to collaborate on interfaith projects. She is partnering with Interfaith Philadelphia, an interfaith center in the city that equips individuals for interfaith engagement and builds collaborative relationships. Allyson will organize two interfaith meals with seminarians to build relationships and discuss how to encourage their communities to engage with each other and how to convey the urgency of this mission to their communities. These gatherings will be a precursor to an Interfaith Philadelphia program that will bring seminary students to visit different houses of worship in the region.

This program will be organized as part of the ACWAY ("A Common Word Among the Youth") network, an international coalition of young people committed to interfaith and intercultural projects that was established in 2015.

- **Allyson Zacharoff** is currently pursuing rabbinic ordination at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. Allyson was a Conflict Resolution Fellow at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, and an International Peacemaking Fellow at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. She also works for the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees. In her free time, Allyson blogs about her interfaith life on her blog, [Of Christmas and Kreplach](#).

· YOUTH PROGRAMS ·

Interfaith Café Series on Empowering Youth Leaders
in Interreligious Dialogue, Rome, Italy

Interfaith Tour of Old City, Jerusalem, Israel

Establishing Peace Clubs in Nigerian Secondary Schools

Establishing an Interfaith Library at the Grassroots Level,
Valillapuzha, India



Samantha Lin
United States of America/Canada

Interfaith Café Series on Empowering Youth Leaders in Interreligious Dialogue

Samantha Lin developed an academic year-long interreligious dialogue program with emerging young leaders in order to facilitate connections among the Catholic Church and local religious (Jewish, Muslim, Christian) communities. The rationale for the project was to change the dynamic of interreligious dialogue from static to dynamic and from academic to lived, while simultaneously shifting the traditional nodes of power away from entrenched religious leaders to younger, upcoming student-leaders. It also aimed to introduce a broad range of interfaith topics to the Roman community through conversations with experts in the subjects. The target audience were college students from Israel and the United States studying in Rome. The project was done in collaboration with the Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas and several sessions were supported by the by the United States Embassy of the Holy See.

Programming included a session entitled, "**Religion in Dialogue: From the Local to the Political**" in which 40 students and interested individuals gathered for an evening of conversation, beginning with a discussion with two activists, Victoria Martin and Fearghas O'Beara. Victoria is a Spanish journalist working as a press officer for the Group of the Social Democrats in the European Parliament since 2008. The other speaker, originally from Ireland, Fearghas O'Beara has spent the past 20 years working for the European Union in Brussels.

Another session was called, "**Rise of Islamophobia in the Western World**" with Professor Tamara Sonn, a faculty member of the Georgetown University Alaweed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian understanding and currently holds the Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani chair in the History of Islam.

- **Samantha Lin** is currently working in Rome at [Longbeard](#), a digital media marketing company that provides communication strategies for non-profits and for the Catholic Church. This is a continuation of her passion for narration as a fundamental aspect toward bridging communities.



Interfaith Tour of Old City, Jerusalem, Israel

For this project, Allyson Zacharoff gathered a group of twenty-five of her Jewish peers to take a tour of the Old City of Jerusalem to learn more about the Christian and Muslim connections to the land. The tour was led by an experienced interfaith guide, who introduced the participants to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Al-Aksa Mosque. The group also met with a Catholic priest and a Palestinian professor to get firsthand perspectives on living in the Old City and concluded the afternoon with a group lunch. Participants found the experience very educational and meaningful.

The program was organized as part of the ACWAY (“A Common Word Among the Youth”) network, an international coalition of young people committed to interfaith and intercultural projects that was established in 2015.

- **Allyson Zacharoff** is currently pursuing rabbinic ordination at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. Allyson was a Conflict Resolution Fellow at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, and an International Peacemaking Fellow at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. She also works for the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees. In her free time, Allyson blogs about her interfaith life on her blog, [Of Christmas and Kreplach](#).



Establishing Peace Clubs in Nigerian Secondary Schools

Father Bakeni's project will establish Peace Clubs in five selected secondary schools in the Maiduguri Diocese to enhance interaction between Muslim and Christian students as well as help them exchange knowledge about each other. In this way, the initiative will break the barriers of ignorance, distrust and mutual suspicion among the student bodies and will further contribute to developing common interfaith activities, building a peaceful and cohesive society. This project is being carried out in collaboration with the Justice, Development and Peace Commission of the Diocese.

- **Fr. John Bakeni** is currently the head of the Ecumenical/Interreligious Dialogue Commission in the Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri in northern Nigeria. He is the Secretary of the Diocese and a member of the Network for Traditional and Religious Peacemakers. Through this Commission they are partnering with Jamaatu Nasril Islam, the Federation of Muslim Women in Nigeria and many other local and civil society groups. He is also Vice-President of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Borno Chapter.

Fr. John Bogna Bakeni
Nigeria



Sr. Gracy Joseph Vadakara
India

Establishing an Interfaith Library at the Grassroots Level

Sister Gracy Joseph Vadakara's project will establish a well-furnished library with sacred books and related books of the world religions such as Christianity, Jewish, Islam, Hindu, Buddhism, Zoroastrians, Jainism, and African religions. The library will be located within the school of Jyothidhara – Valillapuzha, run by her order, the Sisters of Daughters of the Church. Currently the school educates 500 hundred students, ages 4-14, who are Muslim, Hindu and Christian. Once the library is furnished it will be at the disposal of all the students of the school. Having a library where students can learn about other religious traditions will help them build a harmonious life and encourage them to become peacemakers in the world.

- **Sr. Gracy Joseph** is a superior of her community, the Daughters of the Church in Kerala, India, which has a focus on Christian unity and interreligious dialogue in India. Sr. Gracy is the manager of the Jyothidhara-Valillapuzha school. Starting from May 2019 to 2022 she will serve as Provincial superior of her congregation and will be based in Bangalore.

· WRITING · BOOKS ·
· RESEARCH · VIDEO ·

Publication Contribution in Interreligious Dialogue,
Ukraine

Booklet on Practices of Dialogue from the Holy Land

10 Years of the Russell Berrie Fellowship Initiatives and
Achievements Video

Daily Reflections from Jewish and Christian Biblical
Passages for Print & Social Media

Translation of *The Inner Journey: Views from the
Jewish Tradition* from English to Greek

Academic Research on Problematic Scriptural Passages

Publication Contribution in Interreligious Dialogue

Lidiia and Roksolana will develop a publication on interfaith dialogue in Ukraine called, "Interfaith Dialogue: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." They will gather and document reflections, interviews and articles from 7-8 dialogue and religious leaders about the challenges and prospects of practicing interreligious dialogue in Ukraine. The goals of this project are to raise awareness about the importance of interreligious dialogue, establish partnerships for future collaboration, help religious leaders communicate effectively in the public sphere and stimulate ecumenical and interfaith dialogue in seminaries, monasteries and houses of formation. It will also include information about interreligious dialogue achievements in the country, including those carried out over the last five years by the Libertas Center for Interreligious Dialogue, which was founded by Berrie Alumnus Taras Dzyubansky. This initiative is co-funded by the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KACIID).

- **Roksolana Zarytska** has been involved in Ecumenical Social Week in which various religious representatives discuss education, immigration and social responsibility. She's worked on projects related to corruption, injustice and intolerance at the International Institute for Ethics and Contemporary Issues. She was also a member of Lidiia Batig's School of Interreligious Dialogue. Roksolana is currently a student at the Cardinal Bea Center in Rome.
- **Lidiia Batig** is a religious journalist for the online news journal, "Spiritual Greatness of Lviv," in Ukraine. Lidiia is also a volunteer journalist with the Libertas Center. She serves as a media representative for the MasterPeace Lviv Club and is a Youth Web Resource for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church "Dyven Svit".



Elena Dini & Allyson Zacharoff
Italy & United States of America

Booklet on Practices of Dialogue from the Holy Land

The project, initiated by Elena Dini, aims to produce a booklet in Italian to support teachers and educators of religion who want to introduce their students to interreligious encounters and dialogue. The booklet will showcase examples of dialogue initiatives between Jewish, Christian and Muslim individuals and communities being undertaken in the city of Jerusalem. Examples will be showcased through short case studies of best practices.

The booklet will also provide a short series of academic articles on topics such as prayer, service, support of the needy, youth, and scriptural study, and how the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths approach these areas. Allyson Zacharoff, a fellow alumna, will provide short reflections from a Jewish perspective for the booklet.

- **Elena Dini** previously worked as the managing editor of a news website targeting Muslim communities in Italy and currently works in the communications department of a Catholic institution. She regularly writes about interfaith issues and is called by academic institutions to give seminars on this topic. She is active in the field of refugee integration in Rome and runs a series of interfaith meetings for young Italians and refugees.
- **Allyson Zacharoff** is currently pursuing rabbinic ordination at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia.

Lidiia Batig & Roksolana Zarytska
Ukraine



10 Years of the Russell Berrie Fellowship Initiatives and Achievements Video

In honor of the 10th anniversary of the Russell Berrie Fellowship Program, Elyse Brazel, Lidiia Batig and Matthew Doeing visited and video-interviewed a number of Berrie Alumni to capture their most memorable impressions of the Berrie Fellowship program, as well as their challenges and successes in promoting and furthering interreligious dialogue in their communities, including the work of their alumni grant projects. The goal was to produce a video or videos to share with other Berrie Alumni around the world in order to help them learn more about each other's work, germinate new ideas, and spur collaboration.

- **Elyse Brazel** is the Education Coordinator at the University of Calgary's Faith and Spirituality Centre where teaches a course on Building Religious and Cultural Inclusion in the Workplace. She was a member of the KAICIID International Fellows Program, a year long interfaith peace-building program. Elyse served as the videographer for the project.
- **Lidiia Batig** is a religious journalist for the online news journal, "Spiritual Greatness of Lviv," in Ukraine. Lidiia served as the regional Co-Coordinator for Europe for this project.
- **Matthew Doeing** served as the regional Co-Coordinator for North America for this project.



**Elyse Brazel, Lidiia Batig
& Matthew Doeing**
Canada, Ukraine, and United
States of America



Christine Lim & Gabrielle Yang
Malaysia

Daily Reflections from Jewish and Christian Biblical Passages for Print & Social Media

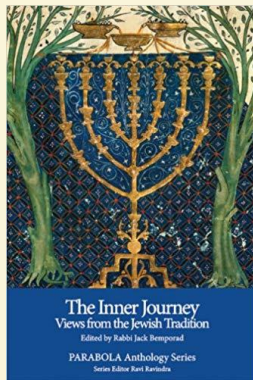
The objective of Christine Lim and Gabrielle Yang's project is to encourage the reading and understanding of Psalms and Prophets through social media and throughout their parishes and diocese. Since January 2018, they have been using Social Media to share short daily biblical reflections, and for their project they will develop and print color booklets of "Daily Reflections," to distribute in person to lay persons of different faiths, and priests and ministers in their communities. They hope that by disseminating these "Daily Reflections," recipients will learn more about Christian and Jewish faith traditions, which will spark an appreciation of their commonalities and differences and forge deeper understanding.

- **Christine Lim** researches, prepares materials, attends and organizes meetings for the Bishop in his role as the Chairperson of the Christian Federation of Malaysia, the Vice President of the Malaysian Consultative Council on Buddhism, Christianity Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism, and in his role as the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.
- **Gabrielle Yang** has worked for the Catholic Research Centre, and assists in co-coordinating monthly meetings, bi-annual conferences and fundraising for the Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism, and for the Christian Federation of Malaysia.

Translation of *The Inner Journey: Views from the Jewish Tradition* from English to Greek

The aim of Elena Kariofyllidou's project is to provide Greek audiences access to *The Inner Journey: Views from the Jewish Tradition*. This book, which is edited by Rabbi Jack Bemporad, the Co-Director of the John Paul II Center for Interreligious Dialogue, is an exploration of the transformative aspect of Judaism. The book features passages from a variety of Jewish sages, philosophers and writers, such as Isaac Bashevis Singer, Martin Buber, and Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz which delve into the traditional and spiritual byways of Judaism. Elena is translating the book into Greek and she expects upon publication, it will be utilized as a means to educate Greek society about Judaism. It will also serve as a resource for interreligious study and dialogue in synagogues, university classes and educational environments.

- **Elena Kariofyllidou** is currently pursuing studies at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI) in Rome. She is studying the Arabic language and culture, and interreligious dialogue between Islam and Christianity.



Elena Kariofyllidou
Greece



Ali Chamseddine
France/Lebanon

Academic Research on Problematic Scriptural Passages

Ali Chamseddine's research project is focused on examining passages of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim sacred scriptures that deal with hatred and violence towards adherents of other religions as well as passages that emphasize peace, justice and love. Ali plans to research and analyze how passages about peace, justice and love can be used to refute and challenge passages that foster hatred, and violence, thus setting a scriptural foundation for fostering coexistence, peace and dialogue in today's world. The project's outcome is that the research will be used as content for lectures, presentations and publication on the topics of coexistence, interreligious dialogue and spiritual resources of peace.

- **Ali Chamseddine** is an adjunct professor at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota teaching courses in Theology, Islam and interreligious dialogue. Ali is a member of the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. He is also preparing to become a married priest serving the Maronite community in the United States.

