

Dear Friends of the Cardinal Bea Centre,

I am pleased to write that as of 20 October 2020, for the first time ever, a Licentiate in Judaic Studies and Jewish-Christian Relations is now offered by a Pontifical University. This new category of canonical Licentiate, established by the Congregation for Catholic Education at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and the preparation of which is entrusted to the Cardinal Bea Centre for Judaic Studies, is not only exciting for us, it is also symbolically relevant. Built on decades of hard work and bonds of friendship to which it lends testimony, it is a sign that not only openly declares the constitutive importance of Judaic studies for Christianity, but also purposely recognises, within the structure of the education of our faith, the powerful mutual enlightenment that occurs when — side by side — we study Revelation. This model can continue to be generated in our communities and our schools. May this novelty set a precedent.

When Pope Francis welcomed the Bea Centre at the Vatican in February of 2019, his words of enthusiasm to us were strong: *“Dialogue calls for hearing two voices, and the witness of Jewish and Catholic instructors who teach together is worth more than many speeches”*. This is what we have been doing, also through our relationships with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Pontifical Biblical Institute, and the Pontifical Oriental Institute. And I believe that it now *resounds even* further. What this new, two-year Licentiate programme creates — on even sounder academic grounds — is a *space*: for shared wisdom, catalysis, words and gestures, relations. But this space is not *just* for teaching; it is a space for listening.

Listening to what younger people have to say is crucial, because the words they speak build history *as they are spoken*. Their words have power and create life, seeds that hold tomorrow in them. This space is for listening, together, for the message that G-d's Spirit holds for the present age. This “space” is not simply four walls, or even a virtual Wi-Fi connection, but is made up of all the points where our constructive intentions converge: to build bridges, awareness, know beauty, dignity, peace, clarity, have sharing, tasting, forgiveness, experience curiosity, enrichment, surprise, friendships, refine knowledge and gain wisdom. And above all, this space will hold the light that each one of us reflects on the *other* as we go, to help find the way together.

Please join us on **21 April 2021** from **18.00-19:30 CET** for the evening that will launch the new Bea Centre Licentiate. Following a salutation from our Rector, **Fr Nuno da Silva Gonçalves SJ**, who has ushered the Licentiate under our roof, I will present the enriched programme in detail and **Fr Norbert Hofmann SDB**, Secretary of the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) will speak on *"The Impact of the Licentiate on Jewish-Christian Relations"* and we will happily respond to your questions about the Licentiate (which can be emailed to [jewishchristianrelations@unigre.it](mailto:jewishchristianrelations@unigre.it)). Then we have planned to give a taste of what we do at the Bea Centre: a brief academic presentation by our professors **Rabbi David Meyer** and **Dr Massimo Gargiulo**, *How to give voice to the other: A Rabbinic-Patristic Discussion*. Please do join us, either in person in the Aula Magna of the Pontifical Gregorian University, piazza della Pilotta, 4, Rome (by reservation only, as per space permits following restrictions and if the sanitary situation allows) or online via Zoom. Lectures will be given in English and Italian, and simultaneous translation into Italian and English will also be provided. The event is free and open to the public. Please find registration links below.

Thank you for your unrelenting enthusiasm and support, especially over this last challenging year. We look forward to continuing to walk together.

Sincerely,



Fr Etienne Vetö, ccn

Fr Etienne Vetö, ccn  
Director  
Cardinal Bea Centre for Judaic Studies  
Pontifical Gregorian University  
Piazza della Pilotta, 4 – 00187 Rome, Italy  
Tel.: +39/06 6701 5522  
E-mail: [veto@unigre.it](mailto:veto@unigre.it)

REGISTRATION:

<https://www.unigre.it/en/events-and-communication/events/events-calendar/presentation-of-new-licentiate-in-judaic-studies-and-jewish-christian-relations/>

LIVE BROADCAST LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0OnbX3C2yos7X0g-5ys4Yb00XAbx4eq>

Cardinal Bea Centre for Judaic Studies  
Pontifical Gregorian University  
E-mail: [judaicstudies@unigre.it](mailto:judaicstudies@unigre.it)  
Web: <https://www.unigre.it/en/judaic-studies/>