

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING

1982

WE, THE PEOPLE

OF MANY TRADITIONS OVER THE EARTH,
ARE DEEPLY CONSCIOUS THAT FOR MANY CENTURIES
THE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING TO THE SOURCE OF INFINITE GOODNESS
HAS CREATED A CENTER FOR OUR LIVES,
HEALING HURTS AND RENEWING HOPES.

NOW WITH A NEW WORLD EMERGING, HUNGERING FOR PEACE,
THE TIMES CRY OUT FOR PEOPLE OF FAITH TO ACT IN LOVE
TO LIFT THE SPIRIT OF OUR AGE.

WITH ANCIENT TRUTH AS OUR SURE GUIDE,
JOIN WITH US
AS WE MAKE THIS DECLARATION FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY.

IN GRATEFUL PRAISE

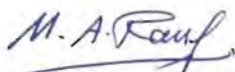
WE REJOICE THAT GRATITUDE IS A REALITY WE ALL SHARE,
AN INSPIRED RESPONSE IN ALL RELIGIONS;

WE CELEBRATE THE DIVERSE CULTURES OF HUMANITY,
WHICH IN THEIR COMMON ROOT ARE UNITED IN TRUE THANKSGIVING;

WE REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER IN TRUST AND RESPECT,
COMING CLOSER IN LOVE AS WE ARE DRAWN TOWARD THE SOURCE OF TRUTH.

TOGETHER

LET US OPEN OUR HEARTS IN A SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING
THAT PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD MAY SHARE,
TRANSFORMING HATRED AND DEFEAT INTO FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION.
MAY OUR HEARTS BE UPLIFTED TO SERVE,
SO THAT BY GIVING THANKS WE MAY GROW IN UNDERSTANDING
OF THE GLORIOUS PURPOSES OF DIVINE LOVE.



DR. MUHAMMAD ABDUL-RAUF
Distinguished Islamic Scholar
United Arab Emirates University



HIS HOLINESS, TENZIN GYATSO
THE FOURTEENTH DALAI LAMA



THE MOST REVEREND PATRICK E. EKE
Bishop of Benin City
Benel State, Nigeria



RABBI JOSHUA O. HABERMAN
Washington Hebrew Congregation

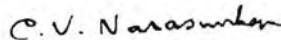


HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS
Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church
in North and South America



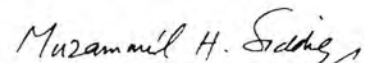
DR. DAVIS MCCAUGHEY
Former Master of Ormond College
University of Melbourne
Leading Australian Ecumenist

Special Messages

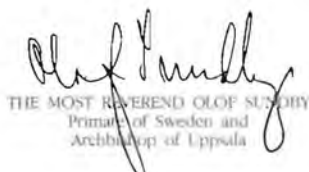


C. V. NARASIMHAN
Former Undersecretary General
of the United Nations and
Distinguished Hindu Layman

Excerpt July 27, 1982 from Vatican City
"POPE JOHN PAUL II shares your concern to spread
in the world attitudes of gratitude to God and
true understanding of the purpose of Divine Love.
Thanksgiving will help to transform hatred and
distrust into forgiveness and renovation which
are the roots of Justice and Peace."

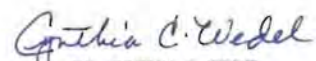


DR. MUZAMMIL H. SIDDIQI
Former Director, Islamic Center,
Washington, D.C.



THE MOST REVEREND OLOF SUNDBY
Primate of Sweden and
Archbishop of Uppsala

Excerpt August 11, 1982, from Kanchipuram
by HIS HOLINESS, SHRI SANKARACHARYA
of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam
"It is not enough that man rises above the
demands of self and the senses.
It is essential that he be grateful to his Creator,
bow in homage to Him, carry Him in his own
mind and heart and live a truly human life."



DR. CYNTHIA C. WEDEL
President, World Council of Churches,
United States

DECLARATION OF
WORLD THANKSGIVING

1983

IN THESE TIMES, PEOPLE OF FAITH

KNOW BOTH THE WORLD'S TRAGIC SPIRITUAL HUNGER
AND ITS NOURISHMENT BY THE HOLY MYSTERY OF LIFE.
SINCE WE BRING NOTHING IN, AND TAKE NOTHING OUT -
SUDDENLY WE SEE ALL LIFE AS GIFT, RARE AND PRECIOUS.
THIS INSIGHT, AN ENLIGHTENMENT GRANTED ONLY TO HUMANS,
DEMANDS FROM A PERSON, A NATION OR A WORLD
A CONSCIOUS CHOICE - TO FORGET THE GIFT OF LIFE
OR TO TURN - AND DELIBERATELY GIVE TO THE GIVER OF GIFTS
OUR JOYFUL THANKS - HUMANITY'S HIGHEST ACT.
THEN HEARTS ARE CHANGED, HURTS TRANSFORMED
AND WE BECOME BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
STANDING STRONG IN OUR OWN FAITH AND REACHING OUT TO OTHER FAITHS,
INSPIRED TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES.
COME, JOIN HANDS WITH ALL THE HUMAN FAMILY AS TOGETHER WE

GIVE GRATEFUL PRAISE.

LET US REJOICE THAT SINCE HUMANITY IS ONE IN SPIRIT,
WE CAN SHARE OUR OWN DEEPEST THANKSGIVINGS
AND OPEN OURSELVES TO THE PRECIOUS THANKSGIVINGS OF OTHERS.
BY THIS EXCHANGE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS
THE WHOLE FAMILY OF MANKIND IS ENRICHED.
LET US PERFECT OUR PRAISE IN ACTION
BY INTENTIONALLY THANKING OTHER PEOPLE AND OTHER FAITHS
AND BEGIN TO HEAL THE WORLD'S RELIGIOUS HATREDS
SO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF ALL BELIEVERS CAN WORK TOGETHER AS FRIENDS.

KNOWING THAT TODAY THE SPIRIT WIND IS BLOWING

MAY WE BE LIFTED IN OUR PILGRIMAGE INTO THAT ASCENSION
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY LEFT - FOR THE HUMAN RACE,
REJOICING IN THE PROMISE OF THE LORD'S PEACE AND FREEDOM.

Phelicia C. Adams

THE REV. MRS. C. DAVIDSON ADAMS
Phelicia
Chapman Memorial United Church, L. C. B.

W. W. Crumwell

DR. W. A. CRUMWELL
Pastor, First Baptist Church
Dallas, Texas

Abmaratana

DR. DR. DR. SODORUVA SAKULANI
Dingene
Wathannan Buddhist Vihara

Mohan

DR. MOHAN LAL KHAN
Secretary General World Muslim League
Karachi, Pakistan

+Card. König

HIS CARDINAL PRIMATE ADRIANUS KOENIG
Archbishop of Vienna and
Primate of Austria

Sillemann

DR. STEVE SAMBARI
President, Theology Bible College
Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.

Arntorlo

PASTOR CARSTEN KITTET NEUMANN
Imperial City of Ethiopia
Kondara, Republic of Zaire

Susan Satishdamm

SW. SRI SUWASATHI HIRANANDA
Dharmapala Hindu Temple
Sathudammada, Thailand

+Robert H. Sandy

HON. FR. STEVE J. BURRILL, S.M., F.S.C.
Abbot of St. Mary's
Klongkum, New Mexico

C. J. Simatupang

DR. C. J. SIMATUPANG
President, World Council of Churches
Jakarta, P.O., Indonesia

M. Talbi

PROFESSOR MOHAMED TALBI
Islamic Studies and President
General Library, Nasser, Tunisia

Barth Walter S. Wurzburger

BARTH WALTER S. WURZBURGER
Executive Director
Interfaith Council of America



Leaders in five world religions, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and Muslim, represent the human family in presenting the Declaration of World Thanksgiving to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar.



Rabbi Walter S. Wurzburger and Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi rejoice in World Thanksgiving at United Nations ceremony.

The
healing and uniting
Spirit of Thanksgiving
is bringing
many leaders together
in other
cities and countries,
and
can bring its blessings
to your own community.



CENTER FOR
WORLD THANKSGIVING
at Thanks-Giving Square
Post Office Box 1777
Dallas, Texas 75221 214/969-1977



Mrs. Shrivatsa Goswami, a Non-Christian Observer at the W.C.C. meeting in Vancouver, is welcomed to Thanks-Giving Square by Dr. Albert Outler.



The Venerable Dr. Henepola Gunaratana, Franz Cardinal Konig and Dr. Hassan I. Bukhari celebrate the beginning of the Declaration of World Thanksgiving.

AS WE GATHER IN THANKSGIVING,
THE WORLD GATHERS WITH US
FOR THANKSGIVING IS A CROSSROADS OF ALL SPIRITUAL PATHS

Our separate Thanksgivings are centuries old,
but new in history is a united Thanksgiving by people of all religions
—a morning star of hope for humanity.

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING

1984

THE HUMAN PERSON

IS THE CROWN OF CREATION.

GIVEN LIFE, WE ASPIRE TO SURVIVE BY SEEKING THE SOURCE OF LIFE
AND FIND IT FINALLY IN THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT.

IN GRATEFULNESS, THE HEART OF PRAYER,
WE DECLARE OUR BOND WITH THE ETERNAL.

GRATITUDE CONSTANTLY REPEATED, BECOMES THE PULSEBEAT OF REALITY,
THE VITAL FLOW OF ACCEPTING THANKFULLY AND THEN GIVING OF OURSELVES.

IN THANKSGIVING

A WHOLE NEW WORLD VIEW IS REVEALED,
MORE REAL AND COMPLETE THAN ANY MATERIALISTIC WORLD VIEW,
SO NOW EACH PERSON CAN STAND UPRIGHT, CONNECTED TO ALL CREATION:

NOW, STANDING FIRM IN OUR OWN FAITH,
WE CAN REACH OUT IN FRIENDSHIP TO OTHER FAITHS,
MAKING WARS BETWEEN PEOPLE OF RELIGION AS OBSOLETE IN THIS CENTURY
AS SLAVERY WAS MADE OBSOLETE IN THE LAST.

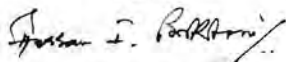
NOW, IN THE WORLD'S MANY DIFFICULTIES,
WE MUST TRY SPIRITUAL SOLUTIONS FIRST,
SO RELIGIOUS PEOPLE CAN SHOW THE WAY WISELY AND GENTLY.
NOW, CHILDREN WORLDWIDE CAN LEARN THE JOYS OF A GRATEFUL, GIVING HEART,
AN ANCIENT AND PRACTICAL KEY TO HAPPINESS THROUGHOUT LIFE.

LIFTED UP BY FAITH

IN THE MIDST OF THIS AGE OF MATERIALISM,
MAY PEOPLE OF GRATEFUL HEARTS IN ALL RELIGIONS
PRAY FOR THE GRACES OF HUMILITY AND GENEROSITY IN
THE HOPE OF A NEW AGE OF THE SPIRIT WHICH WILL BLESS HUMANITY
WITH THE HEALING POWER OF THANKSGIVING.




SHEIKH DR. M. A. ZAKI BADAWI
Chairman, Imams & Mosques Council
London



HASSAN I. BUKHARI, M.D.
Founder
Islamic Association of North Texas



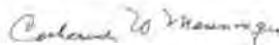
EDWARD CARPENTER
Dean, Westminster Abbey
London



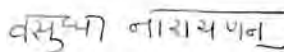
ARCHBISHOP JEAN JADOT
Former Pro President of the Vatican
Secretariat for Non-Christians



RABBI GERALD KLEIN
Temple Emanu-El
Dallas, Texas



MRS. WILLIAM C. MENNINGER
President
People to People International



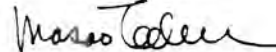
VASUDHA NARAYANAN
Assistant Professor of Religion
University of Florida



DR. RAIMUNDO PANIKKAR
Professor of Comparative Philosophy
of Religion and History of Religions
University of California



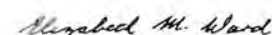
NITTOOR SREENIVASA RAU
Former Chief Justice
Mysore State, India



DR. MASAO TAKENAKA
Professor of Christian Ethics
Doshisha University
Kyoto, Japan



KENRYU T. TSUJI
Ekoki Buddhist Temple
Former Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America



ELIZABETH M. WARD, R.S.J.
Sister of St. Joseph
Auckland, New Zealand

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1985

EVERY DAY

TIES BETWEEN PEOPLES ARE BEING MULTIPLIED.
WE DRAW CLOSER TOGETHER,
A WORLD COMMUNITY IN A SPIRITUAL UNIVERSE,
A SINGLE ORIGIN, A SINGLE GOAL.

THANKFUL FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE

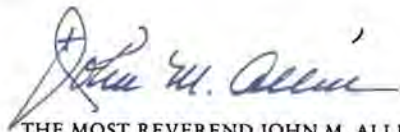
WE CAN ALL BE UNITED
AS WE RECEIVE FROM THE ETERNAL
AND SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER.
WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HUMAN GRATITUDE AND HUMILITY
CAN HELP SOLVE THE REALLY HARD PROBLEMS BEFORE US.

WHY NOT THEN EXPRESS OUR THANKFULNESS?

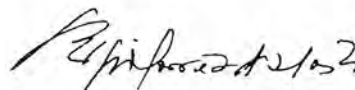
EACH RELIGION OWES THANKS TO OTHER RELIGIONS
NATION TO NATION, PERSON TO PERSON.
AS WE OPEN OUR EYES AND HEARTS
TO THE BLESSINGS OTHERS GIVE US,

MAY WE AWAIT THE DAY

WHEN EACH OF US, IN OUR OWN DISTINCTIVE VOICE,
WILL BE MOVED BY THE HEALING SPIRIT
TO GIVE THANKS TOGETHER TO THE LORD OF LIFE
JOYFULLY.



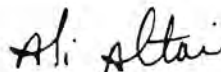
THE MOST REVEREND JOHN M. ALLIN
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church
in the United States of America



SERGIO CORREA DA COSTA
Brazilian Ambassador
to the United States of America



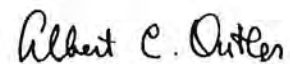
RABBI JORDAN S. OFSEYER
Congregation Shearith Israel
Dallas



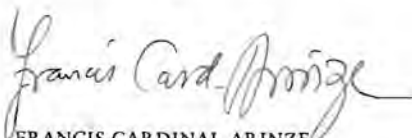
DR. ALI AL-TAI
The League of Arab States
Dallas



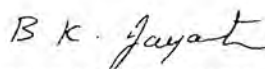
DR. HAZEL V. DEAN-JOHN
Seneca Indian Faithkeeper
Native American Education Unit
New York State Education Department



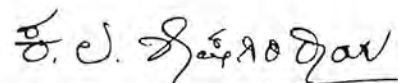
ALBERT C. OUTLER
Theologian and Ecumenist
Southern Methodist University



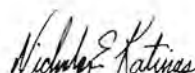
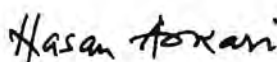
FRANCIS CARDINAL ARINZE
President
Secretariat for Non-Christians
Vatican City



BRAHMA KUMARI JAYANTI
Director, Brahma Kumaris
World Spiritual University
London



DR. K. L. SESHAGIRI RAO
Professor, Religious Studies
University of Virginia



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GRATITUDE

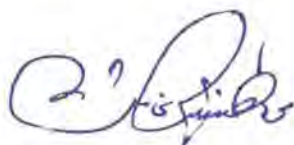
IS THE MEMORY OF THE HEART,
THE FORGOTTEN TRUTH ON WHICH
EACH PERSON CAN SOLIDLY STAND.

IN DAYS OF LOSS AND CONFUSION

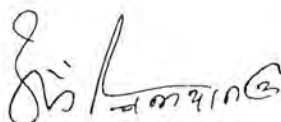
WE SEEK THE ANCIENT GROUND OF FAITH
IN ORDINARY ACTS OF LOVE AND TRUST –
TODAY'S SACRIFICES OF THANKSGIVING
THAT SEEM TO LIFT AND NOURISH US.

THE COMMON BOND

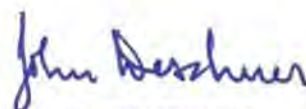
IS OUR ADORATION OF THE LORD OF LIFE.
MAY THE REALITY OF THANKFULNESS
AWAKEN US TO RECEIVE NEW GIFTS OF
HOPE, UNDERSTANDING AND UNITY,
AS WE FEARLESSLY OPEN OUR HEARTS
IN THE STEADY RADIANCE OF THE DIVINE.




SHEIKH MOUJAHED MOHAMMAD BAKHACH
Islamic Association of Tarrant County
Imam & Mosques Council



SWAMI CHINMAYANANDA
Distinguished Vedanta Scholar
India



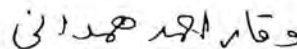
DR. JOHN DESCHNER
Professor, Southern Methodist University
and Chairman Faith and Order
World Council of Churches



HIS EXCELLENCY PATRICK F. FLORES
Archbishop
Archdiocese of San Antonio



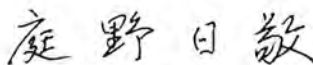
GREER GARSON
Distinguished Actress



DR. VIQAR A. HAMDANI
Representative to the United Nations
World Muslim Congress



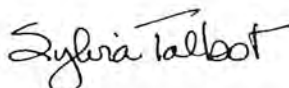
CHIARA LUBICH
Foundress, Focolare Movement
Rome, Italy



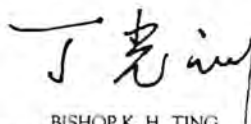
REVEREND NIKKYO NIWANO
President, Niwano Peace Foundation
Tokyo, Japan



RABBI ADIN STEINSALTZ
Distinguished Talmudic Scholar
Israel



SYLVIA TALBOT
President
Church Women United in the U.S.A.



BISHOP K. H. TING
President, China Christian Council
Peoples Republic of China



SWAMI VISHNUDEVANANDA
Founder, International Sivananda
Yoga Vedanta Centers
Quebec, Canada

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1987

ANCIENT WISDOM TELLS US

THAT WE ARE GIVEN HEARING AND SIGHT AND HEART
THAT WE MAY BE THANKFUL.

CREATION ITSELF, FROM NON-BEING TO BEING
IS THE JUBILATION OF BIRTH, AWAKENING, SALVATION.
EVEN OUR CRIES OF DISTRESS CAN BEGIN WITH THANKS,
KNOWING THAT THE WANT OF A BLESSING CAN TEACH US MUCH.
A LIFE EXPERIENCED IN THANKSGIVING BECOMES OUR INNER HAPPINESS.

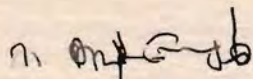
GRATITUDE CREATES THE MOST PROFOUND COMMUNITY

IN A FAMILY OR IN A WORLD.

BEGINNING TO BREAK THE ANCIENT TRAGEDY OF RELIGIOUS HATREDS,
THE YEAR JUST PAST BROUGHT A GREAT BLESSING TO HUMANITY.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, LEADERS OF WORLD RELIGIONS
GATHERED FROM EVERYWHERE IN HUMILITY, FASTING AND PILGRIMAGE,
FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR ALL FAITHS AT ASSISI,
BRINGING PEOPLE EVERYWHERE CLOSER IN LOVE.

ON THE PATH WE MUST WALK TOGETHER

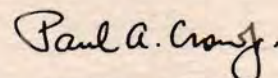
OUR WEAK HUMAN STEPS MUST BE GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT,
SO THAT WE MAY COME INTO RIGHT COMMUNION
WITH THE ETERNAL AND WITH EACH OTHER.
WE ARE GRATEFUL LORD THAT YOU CARE FOR US,
SOURCE, GUIDE AND GOAL OF ALL THAT IS.



DR. MAHMOUD M. AYOUB
Distinguished Islamic Scholar
University of Toronto



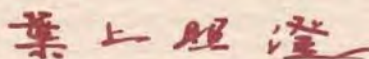
SWAMI BHAVYANANDA
Ramakrishna Order of India
London



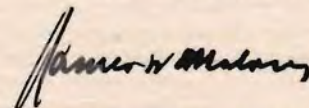
DR. PAUL A. CROW, JR.
President of the Council on Christian Unity
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



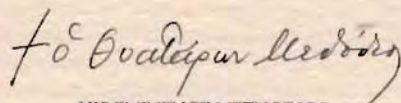
MADAN G. GOYAL
Hindu Layman
Dallas/Fort Worth Hindu Temple Society



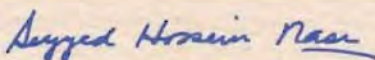
MOST VENERABLE SHOCHO HAGAMI
President, Japan Religious Committee
for the World Federation



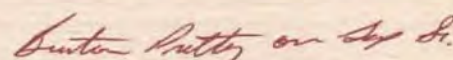
THE MOST REVEREND JAMES W. MALONE
Bishop of Youngstown/Former President
National Conference of Catholic Bishops, U.S.A.



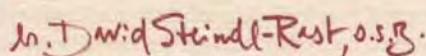
HIS EMINENCE METHODIOS
Archbishop of Thyateira
and Great Britain



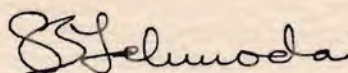
DR. SEYYED HOSSEIN NASR
University Professor of Islamic Studies
George Washington University



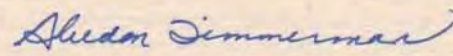
BURTON PRETTY ON TOP, SR.
Crow Tribe of American Indians
Billings, Montana



BROTHER DAVID STEINDL-RAST
Benedictine Monk
Distinguished Lecturer and Author



SUSANNAH B. TELEWODA
Secretary, Lutheran Church in Liberia
Vice President, Lutheran World Federation



RABBI SHELDON ZIMMERMAN
Temple Emanu-El
Dallas

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WORLD THANKSGIVING
1988

WHEN I GIVE THANKS—I REMEMBER

WHERE I COME FROM AND WHO I AM,
AWARE OF MY EXISTENCE—PAST AND PRESENT—
BUT NEEDING FAITH AND COURAGE TO FACE THE FUTURE.

EACH MOMENT'S GIFT OF BREATH AND PULSE

MAKES US REALIZE WE HAVE NOT BEEN LEFT ALONE.
WE BECOME CONSCIOUS OF A LOVING CREATION WE CAN TRUST.

THE ANCIENTS TEACH US THREE STEPS:

FIRST, STEP FIRMLY ON THE GOOD EARTH THAT HOLDS US UP;

SECOND, STEP INTO YOUR OWN LIFE—BE WHO YOU ARE;

THIRD, STEP FEARLESSLY INTO THE UNKNOWN WITH FAITH.

THEN WE CAN SEE THE WORLD'S TENSIONS, ITS HURT AND HEALING

WITH THE EYES OF A LARGER GRATEFULNESS,

THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF A DEEPER UNITY

IN THE LORD'S HARMONY OF PEACE.

SO WE CAN BE THANKFUL TOGETHER,

LIVING OUR REMARKABLE COMMON LIVES,

TO BLESS OTHERS WITH DIGNITY

AS WE OURSELVES HAVE BEEN DIVINELY BLESSED.

BREATHE IN TODAY THE SPIRIT AND ITS JOY,

THANKFUL FOR THE MANY—AND THE ONE.

M. Teresa m.c.

MOTHER TERESA
Foundress, Missionaries of Charity
Calcutta, India

S. Metropolitim

METROPOLITAN PITIRIM
Of Volokolamsk
Moscow Patriarchate, U.S.S.R.

C. D. Coleman

CAESAR D. COLEMAN
Senior Bishop—CEO
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Thich-Tâm-Châu

THICH-TÂM-CHÂU, Supreme Patriarch
World Vietnamese Buddhist Order
Montreal, Canada

Patricia McClurg

THE REV. PATRICIA McCLURG, President
National Council of Churches of Christ (U.S.A.)
New York

Swami Chidanand

SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATI
President, Parmarth Niketan
Rishikesh, India

Norman Solomon

RABBI NORMAN SOLOMON, Director
Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations
Birmingham, England

Samir Kafity

THE RIGHT REV. SAMIR KAFITY
President—Bishop
Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East

A. A. T. O.

AMEGANVI AVEGLUI
High Priest of the Sacred Forest
Togo, Africa

H. Sharif

DR. HADI SHARIFI
Cambridge University
Cambridge, England

Mairead Corrigan-Maguire

MAIREAD CORRIGAN MAGUIRE
Nobel Peace Prize
Belfast, Ireland

Dr. Alparslan

DR. ALPARSLAN ACIKGENC
Middle East Technical University
Ankara, Turkey

DECLARATION OF
WORLD THANKSGIVING
1989

TO BE FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE GIFTS

TO BE ABSOLUTELY AWARE OF THE FAVORS AND THE GRACES:

THIS IS THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING.

THANKFULNESS IS NOT CULTURAL CONDITIONING, RELIGIOUS COURTESY OR GOOD MANNERS,
BUT DEEP, PERSONAL AND CONSCIOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EVERYTHING GIVEN TO US.

TO GIVE THANKS EVEN IN SORROW,

TO INTEGRATE NEGATIVE PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL EXPERIENCES,

TO INTERWEAVE THE SENSE OF FAMILY, COMMUNITY OR NATIONAL SUFFERING

WITH AWARENESS OF UNIVERSAL ORDEALS AND PLAGUES,

AND TO TRANSFORM ALL THESE FEELINGS INTO A GLOBAL THANKFULNESS TO THE LORD OF LIFE:

THIS IS THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING.

AND NOW, CAN WE BE THANKFUL FOR THE FUTURE?

WE SPEAK NATURALLY THE LANGUAGE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE PAST AND PRESENT,

YET THE WHOLE SPAN OF TIME IS OPEN TO THE FAITHFUL MIND.

THANK THE LORD OF DIVINE LOVE AND GRACE,

LORD OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY, BUT ALSO OF TOMORROW.

LET US BE THANKFUL FOR THE TOMORROWS OF THIS WORLD AND ALL WORLDS.


MAY THIS BE OUR TRUE ACT OF THANKSGIVING.



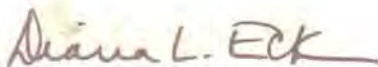
DR. DAWUD A. ASSAD
President
Council of Masajid, U.S.A.



THE REV. EMILIO CASTRO
Pastor, Secretary-General
World Council of Churches
Geneva, Switzerland



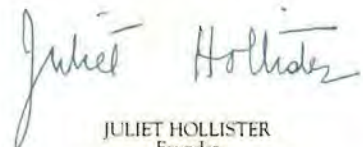
THE REV. DR. HERBERT W. CHILSTROM
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America



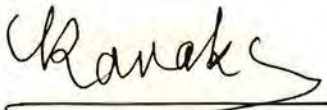
DR. DIANA L. ECK
Professor of History of Religions
Harvard University



RABBI LAWRENCE A. HOFFMAN
Professor of Liturgy
Hebrew Union College
New York

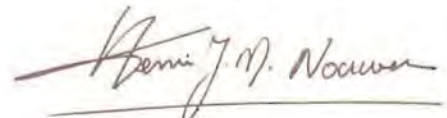


JULIET HOLLISTER
Founder
The Temple of Understanding

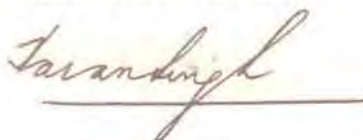


DR. YUSUF ZIYA KAVAKCI
Imam, Dallas Central Mosque
Islamic Association of North Texas

Special Message
MOST REVEREND ROBERT RUNCIE
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
I join with you in longing to promote
a true spirit of thanksgiving in the world.
No spirit will do more to sweeten the lives of
individuals and of society. For gratitude delivers from
that deadly acquisitiveness which isolates, releasing
us to accept the world as a gift of grace
that all may share. Thanks be to God
for his inexpressible gift!



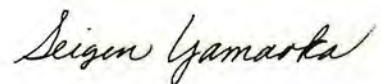
HENRI J.M. NOUWEN
Priest at "Daybreak",
L'Arche Community, Toronto



DR. KARAN SINGH
Indian Ambassador
to the United States of America



ALVERNON V. TRIPP
Distinguished Dallas Longtime
Community Volunteer



THE REV. SEIGEN H. YAMAOKA
Bishop
Buddhist Churches in America

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING

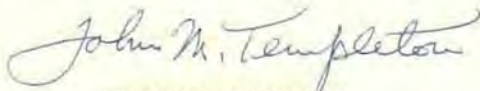
1990

IN OUR TIMES

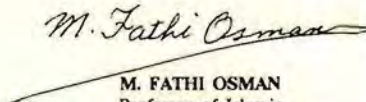
THE BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND EQUALITY
REFRESH AND RENEW THE SPIRIT OF OUR PLANET.
HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS OPENS IN CONCERN FOR THE EARTH;
AND OUR COOPERATION NURTURES THE COMMON GOALS OF PEACE AND JUSTICE.

WE, THE FOLLOWERS OF MANY FAITH TRADITIONS,
EXPRESS PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO THE LORD-SUSTAINER OF THE UNIVERSE.
THESE INCREDIBLE BLESSINGS GIVE US TRANSCENDENT HOPE.
WE RECOGNIZE THAT FORGETFULNESS IS THE GREATEST INGRATITUDE,
WHILE REMEMBRANCE IS A GREAT SOURCE OF BLESSING.
WE SEEK DIVINE GUIDANCE THAT WE MIGHT TRANSCEND
THE TENDENCIES OF MATERIALISM, EGOISM, AND SELF SUFFICIENCY;
FOR THESE TENDENCIES HINDER THE BOUNTY OF SHARING.

JOINED TO CELEBRATE OUR GRATEFULNESS TOGETHER,
WE REJOICE IN THE GIFT OF A BEAUTIFUL CREATION.
MAY OUR THANKFUL RESPONSE BE AS TIMELY RAINS
THAT BLESS THE EARTH WITH ABUNDANT VEGETATION.
WE PRAY THAT ALL BEINGS FIND HARMONY IN A SECURE WORLD,
SAFE FROM THE ANGUISH OF TRAGEDY AND PAIN.
IN UTTER HUMILITY WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF TRANSCENDENT LOVE
FOR EVERY ONE, FOR EVERY THING, EVERYWHERE.



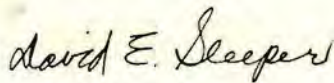
SIR JOHN M. TEMPLETON
Founder, Templeton Prize
for Progress in Religion
Nassau, The Bahamas



M. FATHI OSMAN
Professor of Islamic
Law and Thought
California



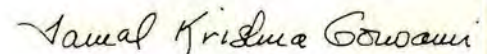
RABBI ARTHUR GREEN
President
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
Pennsylvania



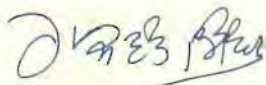
DAVID E. SLEEPER
Former President
Mother Church of Christ, Scientist
Boston, Massachusetts



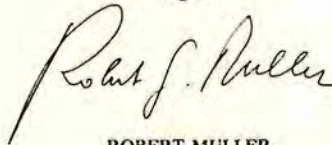
THE MOST REV. T. O. OLUFOSOYE
Archbishop Primate
Anglican Church of
Nigeria



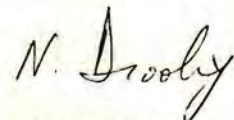
TAMAL KRISHNA GOSWAMI
Governing Body Commissioner
International Society for
Krishna Consciousness



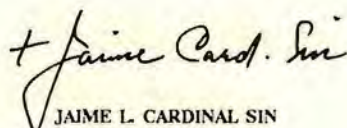
RAJWANT SINGH
Executive Director
Guru Gobind Singh Foundation
National Sikh Center, Washington



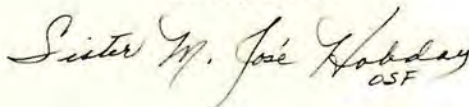
ROBERT MULLER
Chancellor
United Nations
University for Peace



NABILA DROOBY
Executive Director
The Rothko Chapel
Houston, Texas



JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN
Roman Catholic
Archbishop of Manila
The Philippines



SISTER M. JOSE HOBDAY, OSF
Teacher, Author, Lecturer
of Native American Spirituality
California



BISHOP DEMETRIOS OF VESTHENA
Professor of Biblical Studies
Hellenic College - Holy Cross
Massachusetts

DECLARATION OF
WORLD THANKSGIVING

1991

ALL HUMANKIND IS ONE

APPEARANCES BELIE REALITY.
OUR DIVERSE WORLD IS ASTONISHING, BEYOND ALL IMAGINING.
WE ARE AN ENDLESS MULTIPLICITY
OF CREATURES, OF RACES, CREEDS, RELIGIONS;
A CACOPHONY OF CULTURES, LANGUAGES AND WAYS.
YET BENEATH AND BEYOND THIS DIVERSITY,
WE ARE EACH OF US, ALL OF US, ONE CREATION OF ONE CREATOR.
OUR UNITY, OUR ONENESS, TRANSCENDS EVERY DIVERSITY;
ALL HUMANKIND IS ONE.

ONE IN CELEBRATION

IN MANY TONGUES, YET WITH ONE VOICE,
WE REJOICE IN LIFE -- THAT INEFFABLE GIFT THAT IS OURS.
SUSTAINED THROUGH THE FAITH WE SHARE, WE PRAISE...
WE CELEBRATE THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE, THE SOURCE OF ALL HOPE.
WE JOYFULLY ENVISAGE A WORLD MADE GLORIOUS
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GRATITUDE IS THE PRAYERFUL OUTPOURING OF OUR HEART
AS WE CELEBRATE OUR SHARED HUMANITY AND BLESSING.
WE SEEK WHOLENESS AND HOLINESS FOR OUR WORLD.
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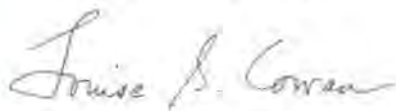
HAMIDU ALKALI
Al-Haji and Doctor
Center for Trans Saharan Studies
University of Maiduguri, Nigeria



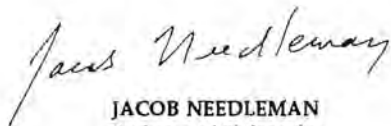
MOST REV. TOSHIO MIYAKE
Chief Senior Minister
Konko Church of Izuo
Osaka, Japan



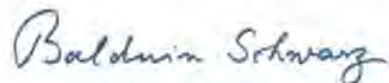
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Past National President
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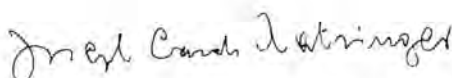
JACOB NEEDLEMAN
Professor of Philosophy
San Francisco State University
California



DR. BALDUIN SCHWARZ
Professor Emeritus, Universities of
Munster and Salzburg
Austria



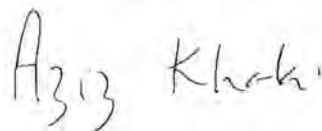
MOST REV. EDUARDO FUENTES
Roman Catholic
Bishop of Solola
Guatemala, C. A.



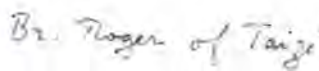
JOSEPH CARDINAL RATZINGER
Prefect of the Congregation
for the Doctrine of the Faith
The Vatican, Rome, Italy



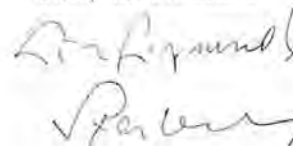
MYRTLE SMYTH
Lecturer, First Church
of Christ Scientist, Boston
Belfast, Northern Ireland



AZIZ KHAKI
Interfaith Coordinator, Council of
Muslim Communities of Canada
British Columbia



BROTHER ROGER
Founder of the
Taizé Community
France



SIR SIGMUND STERNBERG
O. St. J., KCSG JP
Chairman, International Council
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Hamidu Alkali

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Al-Haji and Doctor
Center for Trans-Saharan Studies
University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

三色歳雄

MOST REV. TOSHIO MIYAKE
Chief Senior Minister
Konko Church of Jesus
Osaka, Japan

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DR. MARY LOUISE ROWAND
Past National President
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Jacob Needleman

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Professor of Philosophy
San Francisco State University
California

Baldwin Schwarz

DR. BALDUIN SCHWARZ
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+ E. Fuentes

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Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger

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Prefect of the Congregation
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The Vatican, Rome, Italy

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Bro. Roger of Taizé

BROTHER ROGER
Founder of the
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France

Sigmund Sternberg

SIR SIGMUND STERNBERG
O. St. J. KCSC JP
Chairman, International Council
of Christians & Jews, England

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*Dr. Raymond
Sternberg*

SIR RICHARD STERNBERG
O. St. J., KC, JP
Chairman, International Council
of Christians & Jews, England



George Washington's personally designed "Dove of Thanksgiving" is the backdrop for George Bush's dedication remarks in the Hall of Thanksgiving

The President dedicates the Wall of Presidents at Thanks-Giving Square

And salutes "this unique shrine of gratitude"

George Bush brings to life 200 years of Presidential Thanksgivings

The President and the First Lady gave new life to America's oldest tradition on November 1, 1991, by dedicating the Wall of Presidents at Thanks-Giving Square. The Wall will inscribe the prayer and thanksgiving words of Presidents beginning with George Washington in 1789. Each expresses the people's gratitude to God at that moment of history -- the story of the American spirit.

George Washington was convinced freedom was a divine gift. Two centuries later, George Bush made the first act of his Presidency a Thanksgiving Proclamation. His dedication plaque reads, "This home of American Thanksgiving is dedicated in the name of Presidents Past, Present and Future."

The President concluded his remarks by saying, "I can tell you this, every single day I'm in this job I recognize the importance of giving thanks."



Above: As the Dedication Plaque was placed, the President thanked all who made it possible.

Left: In the Chapel, the Thanksgiving Celebration gave a quiet moment with leaders of all religions and cultures.

The President honored the Jubilee 150th Birthday of Dallas, celebrated the same day at Thanks-Giving Square. Mrs. Bush and the President are shown with (from left) Secretary of Commerce Rob Mottbacher, Alvornon Tripp, Mayor Annette Strauss, Anne Armstrong and the Charles Cullums.

**NOW ALL HUMANITY CAN GIVE THANKS TOGETHER.
THE DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING STARTED JUST 10 YEARS AGO.**

(See other side)

LET'S ALL THANK GOD TOGETHER.

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING

1992

THE GRACIOUSNESS OF THE CREATOR

NOURISHES OUR GRATITUDE.

IN GIVING THANKS WE DECLARE OUR INTER-DEPENDENCE,
OUR DEBT TO THE GOODNESS OF OTHERS ON THIS PLANET
AND, INDEED, TO ALL WHO SUPPLY OUR WELL BEING.

IN OUR TIMES,

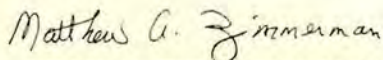
WHEN WALLS WHICH DIVIDE BEGIN TO CRUMBLE,
AND FROM DEEPEST DOWN, FRESH SPRINGS SPLASH FORTH,
WE GIVE THANKS TO THOSE WHO RENEW POSSIBILITIES OF LIFE TOGETHER.

BUT ALSO IN THIS TIME

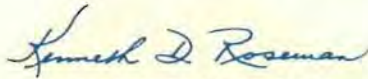
WHEN NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BARRIERS BRISTLE WITH TRIBAL HATES,
AND WHERE EARS ARE SHUT AGAINST THE CRY AND ASPIRATION
OF THE YOUNG, THE REFUGEE, THE HOMELESS;
ON THIS DAY WHEN THOUSANDS WILL DIE OF HUNGER AND WAR,
STILL WE RISE, O LORD, TO GIVE THEE THANKS.

WE ARE REFRESHED IN MIND AND HEART,

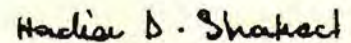
AND MADE BOLD BY THY SPIRIT WHICH HAS ACCOMPANIED US THUS FAR.
WE DARE, O SOURCE OF ALL WISDOM, TO HOPE IN AN UNDAWNED FUTURE AHEAD.
FOR THIS THY ENLIVENING PRESENCE, WE DO GIVE THANKS.



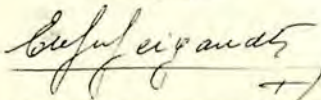
THE REV. MATTHEW A. ZIMMERMAN
Chaplain (Major General) U.S.A.
Chairman, Armed Forces Chaplain Board
Washington, D.C.



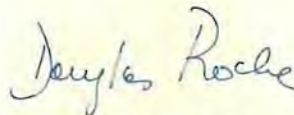
RABBI KENNETH D. ROSEMAN
Temple Shalom
Dallas, Texas



DR. HADIA DAJANI-SHAKEEL
Middle East & Islamic Studies
University of Toronto
Canada



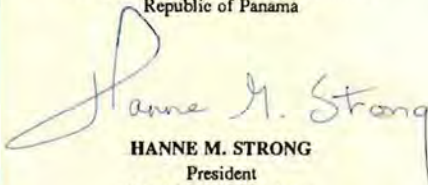
THE REV. ERNESTO WEIGANDT
Global Mission
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Republic of Panama



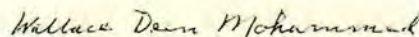
DOUGLAS ROCHE
Former Canadian Ambassador
for Disarmament
Edmonton, Alberta



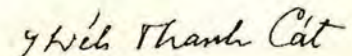
DR. RODRIGO CARAZO
President of Costa Rica
1978 - 1982
San Jose, Costa Rica



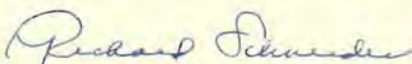
HANNE M. STRONG
President
The Manitou Foundation
Crestone, Colorado



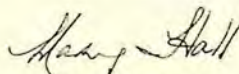
IMAM W. DEEN MOHAMMAD
Muslim American Spokesman
for Human Rights
Chicago, Illinois



HIS HOLINESS THICH THANH CAT
President, Vietnamese Federation of
Buddhist Churches in America
Palo Alto, California



DR. RICHARD SCHNEIDER
Chancellor
World Peace University
Eugene, Oregon



SISTER MARY HALL
Templeton Prize for Religion
The Multi-Faith Centre
Birmingham, United Kingdom



EDWARD IDRIS CARDINAL CASSIDY
President, Pontifical Council
for Promoting Christian Unity
Vatican City

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING

1993

AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW EPOCH

A BRIGHTER WORLD SEEKS TO BE BORN INSIDE US AND AROUND US -
DESPITE THE PAIN AND STRUGGLE WE SEE EVERYWHERE,
DESPITE NEW AND ANCIENT DIVISIONS THAT THREATEN,
AND VAST SUFFERING THAT ENCOMPASSES NATIONS.

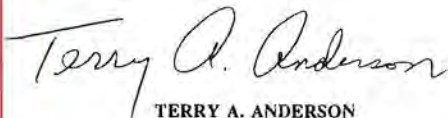
WE ARE MOVED TO GIVE THANKS

TO THE LORD OF CREATION
FOR OUR LIFE AND THE HOPE THAT REFUSES TO DIE,
FOR THE WORLD CONSCIENCE THAT WILL NOT BE SILENT,
FOR THE BLESSINGS OF THIS FRUITFUL PLANET
AND THE TASK OF SHARING IN ITS MISSION.

BUT ABOVE ALL ELSE, WE ARE GRATEFUL

FOR THE SPIRIT THAT EMBRACES THE EARTH

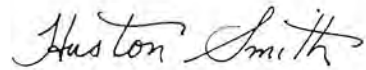
AND BRINGS US TO A SENSE THAT EACH ONE OF US IS BELOVED;
EACH IS PART OF THE ONE FAMILY IN A SACRED UNIVERSE.



TERRY A. ANDERSON
Author & Former U.S. Hostage
Founder
Alliance for a New York Renaissance



THE REV. CHUNG OK LEE
Head Minister
The Won Buddhist Temple
New York City



DR. HUSTON SMITH
Professor of the History of Religions
University of California
Berkeley, California



REV. DR. S. WESLEY ARIARAJAH
Deputy General Secretary
World Council of Churches
Sri Lanka



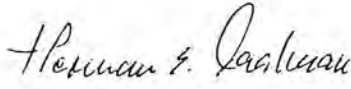
DR. ADAMOU NDAM NJOYA
International President
World Conference on Religion & Peace
Yaounde - Cameroon



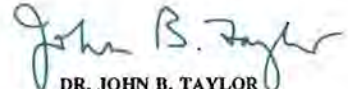
MR. MOHAMMAD SULEMAN
Past Chairman
Islamic Association of North Texas
Dallas, Texas



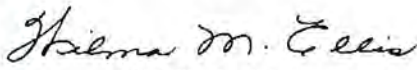
THE REV. MARCUS BRAYBROOKE
Chairman
The World Congress of Faiths
Oxford, England



RABBI HERMAN E. SCHAALMAN
Rabbi Emeritus, Emanuel Congregation
Past Pres., Central Conf. of American Rabbis
Chicago, Illinois



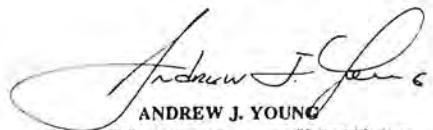
DR. JOHN B. TAYLOR
Consultant on the Former Yugoslavia
Conference of European Churches
Geneva, Switzerland



DR. WILMA ELLIS
Administrator-General
Bahá'í International Community
New York & Geneva




DR. MEHERVAN SINGH
Secretary-General
Asian Conference on Religion & Peace
Singapore



ANDREW J. YOUNG
Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
Co-Chair, Atlanta Comm. for Olympic Games
Atlanta, Georgia

THANKSGIVING IS THE FOCUS

(1993 - Back)



THE GREAT FIRE OF FAITH
AGLOW IN THE HUMAN HEART

WISDOM comes around the hearth-fire, the family circle of our deepest values.
Today we need the warmth of that steady focus and power.

The fire of Thanksgiving was lit at the center of a city years ago
as a focus of the Spirit of the People.

Now Thanksgiving is becoming a world-fire lit in many places and continents.
It has proven the common bond of all cultures.

GRATITUDE is closer than the heart.
May it be the focus-fire to warm your family today
and our neighbors and nations tomorrow.

THE THANKS-GIVING FOUNDATION
at
Thanks-Giving Square

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING

1994

LET US LOOK BEYOND

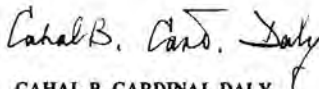
THE RANGE OF MERE HUMAN COMPREHENSION
TO THE SOURCE OF ALL THAT IS.
WE SEE THE MYSTERY OF LIFE – THE HURT AND THE HEALING.
ONE SCREAMS, WHILE THE OTHER IS SILENT:
IN STILLNESS, WE OPEN TO THE WORK OF HEALING.

LET US REACH DEEP WITHIN

TO THE RESOURCES IN HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS.
LIFE IS A VERY PERSONAL GIFT –
AT EACH MOMENT THE CUTTING EDGE OF ETERNITY.
FOR THE WORK OF TODAY AND OF INVISIBLE TOMORROWS,

LET US STAND TOGETHER IN GRATITUDE

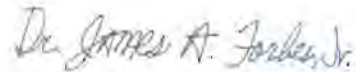
PEOPLE OF EVERY RACE AND CREED.
WE ARE THE RECIPIENTS OF ALL THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OFFERS.
IN PRAISE WE FIND THE HEART OF OUR BELIEF;
REJOICE: TRIBES OF THE LAND! FAMILIES OF NATIONS!
ILLUMINED BY THE GRACE OF VISION,
MAY WE LIFT UP OUR HEARTS TO THE LORD OF CREATION.



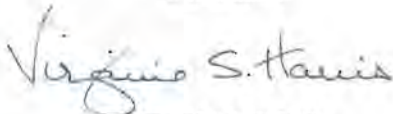
CAHAL B. CARDINAL DALY
Archbishop of Armagh
Primate of All-Ireland
Belfast, Ireland



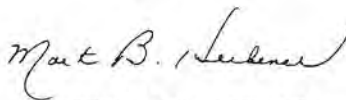
ELIZABETH DOLE
National President
The American Red Cross
Washington, D.C.



DR. JAMES A. FORBES, JR.
Senior Minister
The Riverside Church
New York City



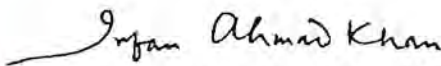
VIRGINIA S. HARRIS
Chairman, The Christian Science
Board of Directors
Boston, Massachusetts



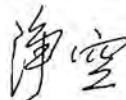
BISHOP MARK B. HERBENER
Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Dallas, Texas



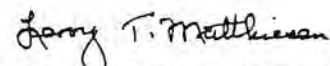
AMANULLAH KHAN, M.D., PH.D.
President,
American Muslim Caucus
Dallas, Texas



DR. IRFAN AHMAD KHAN
Islamic Scholar
and Religious Leader
Chicago, Illinois



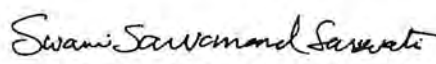
VENERABLE CHIN KUNG
The Venerable of
The Amitabha Society
Taipei, Taiwan



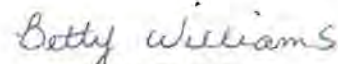
MOST REV. LEROY T. MATTHIESEN
Bishop,
Roman Catholic Diocese
Amarillo, Texas



RABBI DR. JORDAN PEARLSON
Founding Rabbi
Temple Sinai
Toronto, Ontario, Canada



SWAMI SARVANAND SARASWATI
President
International Bhajan Sukh Seva Mission
Delhi, India



BETTY WILLIAMS
Nobel Peace Laureate
Director, Global Children's Studies Center
Huntsville, Texas

In a Word -

Thankfulness Blesses a Home or a World

**"This Home of
American Thanksgiving"**

George Bush
President of the United States

THANKS
■ GIVING
SQUARE



**America's
most honored tradition -
Giving Thanks to God**



**Is at the heart of the
Religions and Cultures
of the world**



**Now the vital Texas Tradition
creates a home for
American Thanksgiving and a
Center for World Thanksgiving.**

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING

1995

A HEART FILLED WITH THANKSGIVING

FILLS THE WHOLE BEING WITH A SONG OF HOPE -
AN ANTICIPATION OF LIFE'S HAPPINESS, PEACE, AND WELL BEING.
IF SUFFERING IS A COMPANION ALONG THE WAY, EXPECTATION YET EMPHASIZES HOPE.
TO FULLY LIVE BOTH JOY AND SORROW, THE HEART MUST RESPOND;
GRATITUDE PROMPTS THE HEART TO OPEN TO ALL OF LIFE.

THE NATIVE PEOPLES TEACH

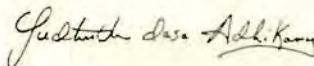
THAT HUMANS MUST SEEK A MOIST HEART,
ONE MASSAGED AND TOUCHED DAILY WITH THE STUFF OF LIVING.
THE MOIST HEART REFLECTS, NEVER ALLOWING LIFE TO GROW DISTANT
OR THE HEART TO BECOME DRY, BRITTLE, AND CLOSED.

TO BE A BLESSING, TO GIVE BLESSING

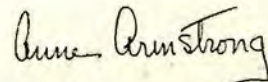
IS A QUALITY OF THE MOIST AND GRATEFUL HEART.
AS WE REFLECT ON OUR ABUNDANCE, WE BECOME STEEPED IN GRATITUDE.
OUR HEARTS OPEN TO CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY,
MAKING SPACE FOR COMMUNION WITH THE CREATOR AND ALL BEINGS.
THANKFULNESS GUIDES US TO UNION WITH THE SOURCE OF ALL.
THE GRATEFUL PERSON SOWS BLESSINGS.



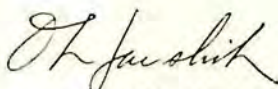
IMAM YAHYA ABDULLAH
Dallas Masjid of Al-Islam
Ministry of W. Deen Mohammad
Dallas, Texas



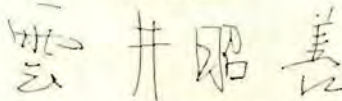
YUDHISTHIRA DASA ADHIKARY
President, International Society
for Krishna Consciousness
Dallas, Texas



ANNE ARMSTRONG
Former Counsellor to the President
Former U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain
San Antonio, Texas



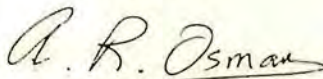
OH JAE - SHIK
Director, Korea Christian Academy
Social Education Institute
Seoul, Korea



DR. SHOZEN KUMOI
Professor Emeritus
Otani University
Kyoto, Japan



REV. THOMAS MICHEL, S.J.
Office of Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs
Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference
Bangkok, Thailand



DR. ABDEL-RAHMAN OSMAN
Senior Imam and Director
The Islamic Cultural Center
New York City



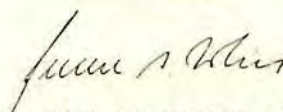
ROSA L. PARKS
Civil Rights Pioneer
Teacher, Author, Volunteer
Atlanta, Georgia



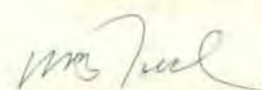
RABBI DAVID ROSEN
Director, Inter-Religious Relations
Anti-Defamation League
Jerusalem, Israel



ALICE GÉRIN ISNARD TAVORA
General Secretary of the Crusade
for a Universal Thanksgiving Day
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



JUAN ALEJANDRO TOBIAS
Rector
Universidad Del Salvador
Buenos Aires, Argentina



WILLIAM E. TUCKER
Chancellor
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, Texas

TESTAMENT of AMERICA

THANKSGIVING — THE GOLDEN THREAD

{1995 -Back}

1775 - 1875

★

The sense of God's Providence and human Thanksgiving for a hundred years
became the cornerstone of a nation

PRAYER WAS THE FIRST ACT of the first Continental Congress. A debate the first day on how to "open the business" of America was settled by Sam Adams, Father of the Revolution, saying,

"I am not forgetful - and I can hear the prayer from a gentleman of piety and virtue who is at the same time a friend to his country".

*This quote is from a letter to his wife Abigail by John Adams
delegate and later second President of the United States*

★

1775 - "the great GOVERNOR OF THE WORLD by his supreme and universal providence - influences the minds of men to serve the wise - purposes of his providential government."

Continental Congress, John Hancock, President

★

1777 - "Foremuch as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God, to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to Him ..."

*First Thanksgiving Proclamation of the Continental Congress
Washington's army celebrated it in the field outside Valley Forge.*

★

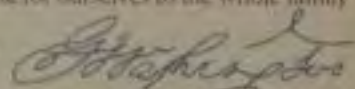
1789 - "... it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits ... for the civil and religious liberties with which we are blessed."

George Washington, President

★

1795 - "... it is an especial manner our duty as a people with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God. Preserve us from the arrogance of prosperity - impart all the blessings we possess, or ask for ourselves to the whole family of mankind"

George Washington, President



★

1798 - "The safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and blessing of Almighty God - the national acknowledgement of this truth is ... a duty ... without which social happiness cannot exist nor the blessings of a free government be enjoyed."

John Adams, President

★

1815 - "The Senate and House desire that a day ... be observed by the people of the United States with religious solemnity as a day of Thanksgiving and of devout acknowledgments to Almighty God for his great goodness manifested in restoring to them the blessing of peace. No people ought to feel greater obligations to celebrate the goodness of the great disposer of events and of the destiny of nations than the people of the United States."

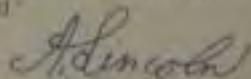
James Madison, President

★

1815-1860 - THANKSGIVING LOST — Unfortunately, in this long period of prosperity and peace, the declaration of dependence on God by national Prayer and Thanksgiving Days was forgotten. Though a vigorous attempt was made to restore national thanksgiving for twenty years by Sarah Josepha Hale, it was not resumed until after history had made the Civil War inevitable.

"It is the duty of nations as well as men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God. We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God."

Abraham Lincoln, President



★

1863 - THANKSGIVING RESTORED — as the terrible war was drawing to a close, Lincoln restored national Thanksgiving, the first since 1815. No President since Lincoln has failed to offer Thanksgiving for the nation.

1875 - Thanksgiving - "a custom both wise and beautiful"

Ulysses S. Grant, President

The FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

Our Dependence on God in the Words of Congresses and Presidents

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING

1996

THANKSGIVING INSPIRES WONDER

AT THE MYSTERY OF THE WORLD.
THERE IS BEAUTY IN DESERT, SEA, AND MOUNTAINS
IN THE FLIGHT OF BIRDS AND HUMAN DISCOVERY.
THE WONDER OF LIFE FILLS THE HEART WITH GRATITUDE.

THANKSGIVING GIVES VALUE

TO THE CULTURES OF PEOPLES EVERYWHERE.
GRATITUDE INCREASES THE SENSE OF WORTH IN EACH PERSON.
APPRECIATION DEEPENS OUR COMPASSION FOR
THE HUNGRY, THE DISEASED, THE OPPRESSED
WHO ARE ROBBED OF OFFERING THEIR SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE WORLD.

THANKSGIVING AT THE HEART OF ALL RELIGIONS

ENCOURAGES RESPECT FOR THE FAITH OF OTHERS.
APPRECIATION OF EACH OTHER'S SPIRITUAL TREASURES
HELPS DISSOLVE THE TENSIONS AND BITTERNESS OF THE WORLD.
THEN HUMANITY TOGETHER CAN BECOME A SYMPHONY
OF PRAISE TO THE LORD.

MELBA PATILLO BEALS
Civil Rights Pioneer
Author, Lecturer, Volunteer
Tiburon, California

MARJ CARPENTER
207th Moderator
Presbyterian Church, USA
Big Spring, Texas

ANGEL M. CENTENO
Secretary of Religious Relations
Republic of Argentina
Buenos Aires, Argentina

REV. MICHEL DUBOIS, O.P.
Professor, Hebrew University
Director, Isaiah House
Jerusalem, Israel

THE REV. ROY H. HARRELL
Pastor Emeritus
Ross Avenue Baptist Church
Dallas, Texas

DR. FIROZE M. KOTWAL
Dastur, Zoroastrian High Priest
H. B. Wadia Atash Rahram
Bombay, India

NAHID MOHAMMED
Educator and Assistant Principal
Brighter Horizon School
Dallas, Texas

REV. DR. KONRAD RAISER
Secretary-General
World Council of Churches
Geneva, Switzerland

DR. T. S. RUKMANI
Professor and Chair of Hindu Studies
Concordia University
Montreal, Canada

FARID SENZAI
Spokesperson
World Religions Youth Conference
New York, New York

RABBI DAVID E. STERN
Senior Rabbi
Temple Emanu-El
Dallas, Texas

DR. TU WEIMING
Professor of Chinese History & Philosophy
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

(1996 Book)

THE RING OF THANKS

OPENS THE DOORS OF MINDS AND SPIRITS

"HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD BE IF —
WE COULD HELP OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN
TO LEARN THANKSGIVING AT AN EARLY AGE.

THANKSGIVING OPENS THE DOORS.
IT CHANGES A CHILD'S PERSONALITY.
A CHILD IS RESENTFUL, NEGATIVE — OR THANKFUL.
THANKFUL CHILDREN WANT TO GIVE,
THEY RADIATE HAPPINESS, THEY DRAW PEOPLE.

WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL IF WE COULD
HELP PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD
TO HAVE YOUNG PEOPLE TAUGHT THE
BASIC SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF THANKSGIVING?"

— Sir John M. Templeton —
President, Center for World Thanksgiving



Now... TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY, THE RING OF THANKS INVITES US TO "ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING." FOR ALL AGES, THIS CEREMONIAL ENTRY IN THE ENLARGED COURT OF ALL NATIONS, CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING AT HOME, IN THE NATION, AND WORLDWIDE.

THANKSGIVING AND OUR CHILDREN... THE WORLD'S CHILDREN

MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO, THANKSGIVING EDUCATION BEGAN WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE TALENTED AND GIFTED PROGRAM. LATER, A FIFTH GRADE GRATITUDE CURRICULUM WAS DEVELOPED BY PRIVATE, PUBLIC AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL EDUCATORS. THIS WAS FOLLOWED WITH A COLLEGE COURSE, AND GRADUATE SEMINARS. BOOKS ON GRATITUDE HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH HARVARD UNIVERSITY, IN HEIDELBERG, AND IN CAIRO.



PRESCHOOL CHILDREN will enjoy a new guide for finding gratitude in favorite bedtime stories. Planned by public, private and parochial school educators representing Hindu, Jewish, Christian and Muslim schools.



HIGH SCHOOL work sessions are in full swing as juniors and seniors from 30+ regional schools take part in the Thanksgiving Council of the Young. They build community and see teenage life through gratitude.

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING

1997

WE LOSE HOPE, UNTIL

IN THE COLD WINTER OF LACK AND DISTRESS
OR IN THE EASE AND ABUNDANCE THAT DULLS PURPOSE,
WE FINALLY FEEL THE NEED TO GRASP AND SHOUT ANEW
OUR ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.

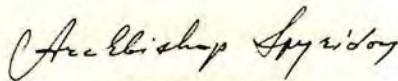
LIFTED AND HOPEFUL IN THANKING,

WE AWAKEN TO THE REALITY OF GREAT GIFTS GIVEN US,
IN BODY, MIND AND SOUL:
PAST MEMORY, PRESENT PASSION, FUTURE AWE.
WE SEE THE NEED TO GRASP MUCH MORE FORCEFULLY
AND TO REVEAL TO THE WORLD
NOT THAT WHICH DIVIDES US,
BUT THE THANKSGIVING THAT UNITES US.

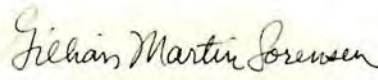
WE LEARN JOY AS WE ACT IN SELF-GIVING,

SURPRISED BY THE POWER GIVEN THE OPEN-HEARTED.
TOGETHER LET US LIFT OUR HEARTS TO THE LORD OF CREATION,
SO OUR THANKING AND GIVING CAN BRIGHTEN THE FUTURE,
OUR PRINCIPAL CHALLENGE FOR THE COMING CENTURY.

(With appreciation for the thoughts of Vaclav Havel)



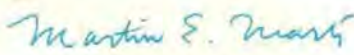
ARCHBISHOP SPYRIDON
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
of North and South America
New York City



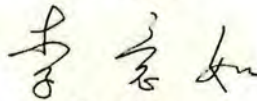
GILLIAN MARTIN SORENSEN
Assistant Secretary General
The United Nations
New York City



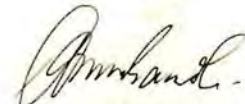
SHIMON PERES
Nobel Peace Laureate
Former Prime Minister of Israel
Tel Aviv, Israel



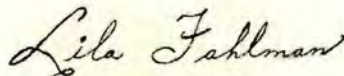
DR. MARTIN E. MARTY
Professor, University of Chicago
Director, Public Religion Project
Chicago, Illinois



DR. LI YIRU
Founder and Principal
Hua Xia School
Beijing, China



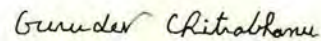
ARUN GANDHI
Founder
M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence
Memphis, Tennessee



DR. LILA FAHLMAN
Founding President
World Council of Muslim Women
Edmonton, Alberta



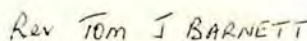
ANWARUL K. CHOWDHURY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh
to the United Nations



GURUDEV CHITRABHANU
Founder
Jain Meditation International Center
Bombay, India



REV. JOAN BROWN CAMPBELL
General Secretary
National Council of Churches
New York City



THE REV. TOM J. BARNETT
President
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sierra Leone, West Africa



DR. IAN ADAMSON
Medical Doctor
and Lord Mayor
Belfast, Northern Ireland

THANKSGIVING TOGETHER

— 1907 - 1997 —

"A SIMPLE THANKSGIVING MIRACLE"

In 1907, at the beginning of the century, a revolutionary idea changed a town's thinking at the center of America. Now in 1997, at the end of the century, that powerful idea of "THANKSGIVING TOGETHER" could change the world's thinking.

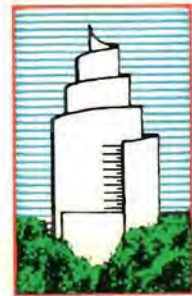
Ninety years ago, a simple question spurred the miracle. A new Rabbi asked his fellow clergy, "Since we share only one religious holiday, why don't we celebrate it... *together*?"

In spite of the accepted prejudices of the day, the answer was an enthusiastic **YES!** echoed in the overflowing crowd at that Thanksgiving Day celebration. A great banner behind the podium read, "Have we not all one Father?" The clergy who spoke said...

"We ought to be thankful today that we are children of forefathers of deep religious convictions..." *Rabbi*

"The time is gone when people hate each other because they differ in belief. Religion is naught but love, because God is love." *Priest*

"You see on this rostrum a Catholic, A Unitarian, a Methodist, and a Jew, but there is no spitting of fire (applause)... This is a prophetic insight into what is being realized more and more today." *Preacher*



Perhaps the simple miracle of 1907 was an insight into "love your neighbor as yourself," telling us to "respect our neighbor's faith as we would have them respect ours." In "THANKSGIVING TOGETHER" it became possible. For 50 years the "THANKSGIVING TOGETHER" miracle continued downtown each Thanksgiving Day — through panics, droughts, wars and depressions. Only in 1957 was it halted: by suburbs, football, and television.

In 1977, "THANKSGIVING TOGETHER" emerged deeper and wider, not one day a year, but everyday at the center of downtown life. Thanks-Giving Square and its Garden symbolizes America's oldest tradition. At the 1977 opening of the Square, in prophetic words, a world statesman said, "I dream that in the year 2000, all the world will give thanks." Would the dynamism of Thanksgiving enlarge its blessings even more?

Now in 1997, near the end of the century, we see that, as always, Thanksgiving opens hearts around us. But amazingly, as prophesied, 54 nations of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations have accepted the

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THANKSGIVING 2000

Now we are dramatically seeing Thanksgiving open hearts in many nations. From the beginning to the end of our century, the powerful idea of "THANKSGIVING TOGETHER" continues to grow.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TOGETHER



The five Thanksgiving World Advisors, whose religions represent two-thirds of the world's people, stand by the new giant Norman Rockwell Mosaic, gift of the Charles & Sam Wyly Family.

DECLARATION OF
WORLD THANKSGIVING

1998

AWAKE MY SPIRIT

AT ANY MOMENT — OR ONCE IN A THOUSAND YEARS —
OUR REMEMBERING BRINGS GRATITUDE AND THE POWER TO GIVE.
APPROACHING THE HUMAN THRESHOLD OF THE YEAR 2000
WE SEEK THE SOURCE AND MEANING OF LIFE.
WE CAN EXPERIENCE THE HIDDEN TRUTH THAT
EVEN IN DARKNESS UNFAILING LOVE ENFOLDS US.

THE HARVEST OF A THOUSAND YEARS CAN BE

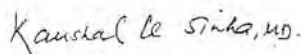
OUR REFLECTION ON OUR OWN LIFE EXPERIENCE,
OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE ITSELF.
REMEMBERING TOGETHER FULFILLS AND COMPLETES AN AGE.
IN OUR CENTURY PEOPLE ONCE FAR OFF ARE NOW CLOSE.
IN RECOGNIZING AND THANKING OTHERS, NEAR AND FAR,
WE BLESS ALL LIFE AROUND US.
THIS SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING — THIS SACRIFICE OF SELF
BECOMES A HARVEST OF LIGHT.

OUR THANKSGIVING TOGETHER

IS NOW OUR NEW SONG TO THE LORD.
WE PRAY THAT OUR ACTS OF THANKS AND GIVING
WILL INSPIRE ALL HUMANITY TO STEP INTO THE AGE TO COME
WITH THANKSGIVING.



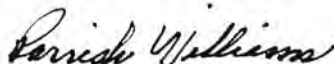
BJØRN WINBLAD
Artist
Ceramist and Designer
Copenhagen, Denmark



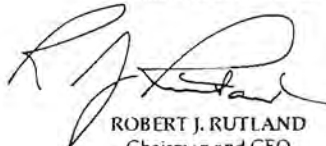
KAUSHAL K. SINHA, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Encyclopedia of Hindism
Columbia, South Carolina



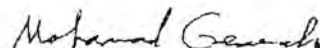
RABBI LEON KLENICKI
Director, Department of Interfaith Affairs
Anti-Defamation League
New York City



PARRISH WILLIAMS
Priest and Leading Elder
Native American Church
Ponca City, Oklahoma



ROBERT J. RUTLAND
Chairman and CEO
Allied Holdings, Inc.
Atlanta, Georgia



SHEIKH, MOHAMAD M. GEMEHA
Imam
The Islamic Cultural Center
New York City



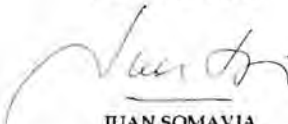
JENÖ C. A. STAEHELEIN
Ambassador of Switzerland
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
to the United Nations



Rt. Rev. SAMSON M. MWALUDA
Bishop
Anglican Diocese of
Taita Taveta, Kenya



JARGALSAIKHANY ENKHAISKHAN
Ambassador of Mongolia
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
to the United Nations



JUAN SOMAVIA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Chile
to the United Nations



PETER McLACHLAN
First Chairman, Board of Directors
ThanksGiving Square Belfast
Belfast, Northern Ireland



POSECI WAQALEVU BUNE
Fiji High Commissioner to Canada &
Permanent Representative of Fiji
to the United Nations

DECLARATION OF
WORLD THANKSGIVING

1999

DEEP CALLS TO DEEP

IN OUR HEARTS — AS WE FACE THE THRESHOLD OF 1000 YEARS.
GREAT RELIGIONS REMIND US THAT OUR GRATITUDE REQUIRES AN OTHER
TO LIFT US UPWARD TO THE SOURCE.
NOW THOSE ANCIENT RELIGIONS HAVE TAKEN
A GREAT HISTORIC COMMON ACTION
IN THE THANKSGIVING TOGETHER THAT GIVES LIFE MEANING AND PURPOSE.

IN A WORLD THAT NEEDS HEALING

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS JOINED THE GREAT RELIGIONS IN DECLARING
2000 "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THANKSGIVING".
LET US REACH OUT TO OTHERS IN GIVING AND FORGIVING
TO FULFILL THE TIMELESS WISDOM OF GRATITUDE.
CAN THANKFULNESS ALTER THE COURSE OF A WORLD?

WE REJOICE IN WHAT UNITES US —

THIS VISION OF "THANKSGIVING TOGETHER" FOR ALL HUMANITY
POWERFULLY OPENING THE NEW CENTURY.
MAY HUMANITY WELCOME THE DAWN OF A NEW WORLD CONSCIOUSNESS,
OUR GRATEFUL PRAISE FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE
IN REVERENCE BEFORE THE ETERNAL, THE HOLY.



NAHID ANGHA, Ph.D.
Co-Founder and Co-Director
International Association of Sufism
San Rafael, California



RONALD APPLETON, Q. C.
Chairman, Board of Directors
Thanksgiving Square Belfast
Belfast, Northern Ireland



FATHER LUIS M. DOLAN, C. P.
Liaison to the United Nations for the
Center for World Thanksgiving
New York City



S. R. INSANALLY
Ambassador & Permanent Representative
Republic of Guyana
to the United Nations



EMIKO HANNAH ISHIGAKI
Dean of the Graduate School
Seiwa College
Kyoto, Japan



DAVID B. LARSON, M.D.
President
National Institute for Healthcare Research
Rockville, Maryland



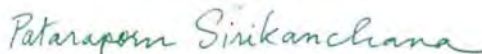
BERNARD LIKALIMBA
Master of Arts Student
University of Natal
Pietermaritzburg, South Africa



WALLY N'DOW, Ph. D.
Secretary General
United Nations Habitat II Conference
The United Nations



SWAMI SARVANAND SARASWATI
Founder and President
International Bhajansukhseva Mission
New Delhi, India



PATARAPORN SIRIKANACHANA, Ph. D.
Chairperson, Standing Committee
World Fellowship of Buddhists
Bangkok, Thailand



JOAN VIDAL GIRONELLA
Founder and President
Intercultural Opinion Group
Barcelona, Spain



MARINA VILLALOBOS DIAZ
President, Interamerican Council
of Indigenous Spirituality
Morelia, Mexico

(1999 Book)

The Good News from the United Nations

2000 – INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THANKSGIVING

shows humanity's discovery together that



THANKSGIVING OPENS HEARTS – VISION FOR THE NEW CENTURY

Every family knows that thankful people are happy people – that's the way families open minds and lives with acts of giving and forgiving.

- A Paris housewife puts it this way: "Thanksgiving should be the center of our lives."
- A world businessman says "Wake up in the morning and say, WOW!, I'm alive again!"
- An international religious leader calls gratitude "a wind in the heart" that heals and unites.

Great minds came from thirty nations and five continents in March, 1999 to the Center for World Thanksgiving in Dallas, Texas for the Thanksgiving World Assembly of religions and cultures, which They prepared for "2000 – International Year of Thanksgiving. Among many others, eight world leaders and thinkers foresaw:

A NEW GRATITUDE IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES

"Cultivate a new vision – it can reorient the mind and heart."
"Thanksgiving elevates our minds and spirits."
"When we express gratitude we are never alone."
"Thanksgiving – our compassion has to include the world."
"There is a song of Thanksgiving because we are His."
"Thanksgiving is the most important expression of faith in our Creator."

– Dr. Louise Cowan
– Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN
– Dr. K. L. Seshagiri Rao
– Venerable Achok Rinpoche
– Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz
– Dr. Muzammil Siddiqi

THANKSGIVING IN OUR COMMUNITY, IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY

"Now is the opportunity to open a new chapter in human history."
"Let religions thank other people of religion."
"The Century of Thanksgiving – a great world movement which can serve to unite and stimulate all future civilizations."
"Religion – one of the most powerful forces in human action."
"We must concentrate on what unites us – Thanksgiving."

– Dr. K. L. Seshagiri Rao
– Dr. Muzammil Siddiqi
– Sir John M. Templeton
– Francis Cardinal Arinze
– Dr. George Carey, The Archbishop of Canterbury

WE CAN ALL HELP THANKSGIVING OPEN HEARTS WHERE WE LIVE

The CENTER FOR WORLD THANKSGIVING at Thanks-Giving Square is dedicated to gather and share praise, gratitude and thanksgiving in the human experience, in order to bless people everywhere.

THE THANKS-GIVING FOUNDATION invites your help for this great work.

Join us with your ideas and support (checks can be made payable to The Thanks-Giving Foundation)

CENTER FOR WORLD THANKSGIVING at THANKS-GIVING SQUARE
Post Office Box 131770 (at Akard, Bryan, Pacific & Ervay Sts.)
Dallas, Texas 75313-1770
Phone: 214.969-1977 Fax: 214.754-0152 www.thanksgiving.org

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING 2000

IN CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING

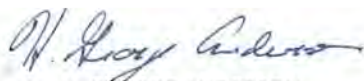
FOR A CENTURY AND A MILLENNIUM
WE FIND A MYSTERIOUS POWER TURNS OUR HEARTS
AWAY FROM THE SUPERFICIAL, TOWARD THE AUTHOR OF ALL GOOD THINGS.
THE HEART IS PULLED TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE CARED FOR —
THAT LIFE HAS MEANING.

EVEN SUFFERING AND PAIN BECOME GIFTS

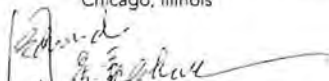
FOR WHICH TO BE THANKFUL IN THE LIGHT OF GRATITUDE, SINCE IT UNCOVERS
AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT UNIVERSE IN WHICH ONE CAN LIVE.
A SPIRITUAL DIMENSION – A MOVEMENT UPWARD.
FACING VAST CHANGE – THE HABIT OF GIVING THANKS
CAN REORIENT THE MIND AND HEART AND REMAKE OUR COSMIC ORDER.

IN THIS VERTICAL DIMENSION OF THANKSGIVING

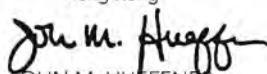
WE FIND THE GREAT NEED OF THE NEW CENTURY.
MAY WE CULTIVATE A NEW VISION TO SEE WITH THE INNER EYE THE INVISIBLE SOURCE OF BEING
TO FIND THE SOURCE OF TRANSCENDENCE IN THE HEART OF LIFE.
SO NOW WE UTTER OUR HYMNS, OUR PRAYERS, OUR PRAISES IN LOVE AND FORGIVENESS
FOR THE THANKSGIVING IN OUR HEARTS THAT WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.




H. GEORGE ANDERSON
Presiding Bishop
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Chicago, Illinois



FATHER EDWARD CHAU KING-FUN, Ph.D.
Chairperson of
Diocesan Commission for
Interreligious Dialogue
Hong Kong




JOHN M. HUEFFNER
Christian Science
Committee on Publications for Texas



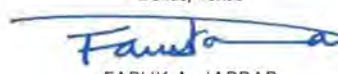
IFET MUSTAFIC
The Islamic Community in Bosnia-Herzegovina,
Interreligious Relations and Human Rights Advisor,
Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina



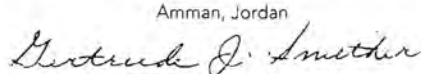
MOVSHOVICH ROTHFELD ENRIQUE
President of the Judeo Christian Relations Committee
B'Nai Brith in Mexico
Mexico City



ISABELLE COLLORA
Co-founder and
Board President
Homeward Bound Inc.
Dallas, Texas



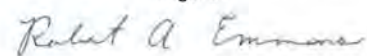
FARUK A. JARRAR
Advisor and Coordinator,
Muslim-Christian Dialogue,
Al Albait Foundation
Amman, Jordan



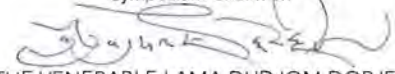
THE REVEREND GERTRUDE J. SMITHER
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Dallas, Texas



DR. ABDUL-LATEEF ADEGBITE
Seriki & Baba Adini of Egbaland
Secretary General, Nigerian Supreme
Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA)
Nigeria



ROBERT A. EMMONS
Professor of Psychology
University of California, Davis
"Kindling the Science of Gratitude"
Symposium Chairman



THE VENERABLE LAMA DUDJOM DORJEE
Acharya and Spiritual Advisor
KTC Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Center
Dallas, Texas



PHILLIP M. RAMSAROOP
Past President
Dallas Fort Worth Hindu Temple

THANKSGIVING (2000 BACK)

A MYSTERIOUS POWER FOR THE NEW CENTURY

OUR CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING PULLS OUR HEARTS AWAY FROM THE SUPERFICIAL
TOWARD THE AUTHOR OF ALL GOOD THINGS.

The dynamism of
the "spiral of life" is
the chosen image of
"2000 International
Year of Thanksgiving"
for the United Nations
Official Stamp.



Like a brilliant jewel,
the giant stained glass
ceiling of the Chapel of
Thanksgiving in Dallas
shows God's blessing
embracing us and our
praises rising to God.

The spiral was inspired by Brother David's words of a mother's reaction to her baby's smile.
In his words, "the mother, overjoyed with the childish gesture of gratitude, lifts up the baby with a kiss.
There is our 'spiral of joy.' Is not the kiss greater than the smile – the joy that set our spiral in motion?"

Stained glass master Gabriel Loire of Chartres feels the purpose behind his work is "to express all life with its difficulties,
its forces, its joys, its torments, its frightening aspects, and then, bit by bit, all that falls away and you arrive finally at a burst,
an explosion of gold, you arrive at the summit."

May thanksgiving become your daily habit.

VISIT THANKS-GIVING SQUARE FOR THE INSPIRATION OF THANKSGIVING

Send your ideas and support to:

THE THANKS-GIVING FOUNDATION AT THANKS-GIVING SQUARE
P.O. Box 131770 (at Akard, Pacific, and Ervay) Dallas, Texas 75313-1770
Phone 214.969.1977 Fax 214.754.0152 E-mail: info@thanksgiving.org
(Checks can be made payable to The Thanks-Giving Foundation.)

Visit our Web site at www.thanksgiving.org

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING 2001

SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD

From our first breath, the Great Giver puts life in our throats.
As we now hold our breath, we know where life comes from.
The gift of pure air, personal and vital, that I receive
is given each of us, each moment.

FELLOW RECEIVERS

of the breath of life the world over, each receives different gifts to give each other.
We awake to the life-giving act of exchanging gifts,
the happy mission we learn of self-giving.
We learn the joy of breaking the estrangement,
the alienation walls that we ourselves build,
as we reach out and make other lives happier.

WE SING THANKSGIVING TOGETHER – ALWAYS NEW

Even in the night of trouble, thanksgiving is the star
that shows our little and our great gifts clearer.
We learn in pain to see the Giver and not the gift.
May we remember the eternal thanksgiving message
that keeps life ascending in meaning, reverence and rejoicing.
Praise the Lord.

+ Bishop Kallistos
of Diokleia

Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia
The Right Reverend Kallistos Ware
Oxford, England

Subhash Kak

Dr. Subhash Kak
Professor of Engineering
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Hsien Lily Chuang

Hsien Lily Chuang
Buddhist Nun
Dallas Buddhist Association
Dallas, Texas

Jerome A. Lewis

Jerome A. Lewis
Chairman
Downing Street Foundation
Denver, Colorado

Marzuq Abdul Jaami

Marzuq Abdul Jaami
Assistant Director
Dallas Masjid of Al-Islam
Dallas, Texas

+ Andreas Laun

Dr. Andreas Laun
Auxiliary Bishop in Salzburg
Salzburg, Austria

Terry J. Flowers

Dr. Terry J. Flowers
Headmaster
St. Philip's School & Community Center
Dallas, Texas

Muriel V. Pinkus

Muriel V. Pinkus
Past Chairman
Dallas Regional Board of the
Anti-Defamation League
Dallas, Texas

Charles O. Galvin

Dean Charles O. Galvin
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas

Susan P. Macfarlane

Susan P. Macfarlane
Co-chair Thanks Giving Place
Baltimore, Maryland

+ Michael J. Sheehan

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan
Archbishop of Santa Fe
Albuquerque, New Mexico

S. S. Rama Rao Papu

S. S. Rama Rao Papu
Professor
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

The first survey of the world's Harvest Thanksgivings* clearly shows – (2001 Back)

A DAY OF THANKSGIVING TOGETHER

HEALS AND UNITES THE HOME, THE HARVEST, THE WORLD.

Especially in times of tragedy, it's good to remember the thanksgiving at the heart of all religions.

THE HARVEST – Thousands of Harvest Thanksgivings in hundreds of countries each year fulfill an ancient human need for a day to rejoice together. We celebrate the Divine Goodness for the Gift of Life, the fruits of the field, forest, or sea – and today, the school, the office, or factory. (Some Harvesters report the custom to give thanks in advance for the next year's bounty by leaving special sheaves in the field.)

After the labor of the year, the warmth and brilliance of the thanksgiving moment together give unity and healing. A World Thanksgiving Day each year can start to heal the nations at the grassroots.

SURVEY OF THE WORLD'S HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS REPORTS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE



THE HOME – In millions of homes daily in all continents, children are learning the same thankfulness from mother, father and elders in the different words and gestures of many cultures and religions. (One custom reported – in Zimbabwe and Malawi, children open both hands to receive a gift and clap their hands.) Gratitude expressed in the home unites parents and children and heals the community.

IN ACTIVE CONFLICT AREAS, the power of thanksgiving is at work by opening and changing hearts. Secretary-General Kofi Anan states, "... Thanksgiving will be an inspiration for peace, healing, and understanding." **IN EUROPE** – In Northern Ireland, a resolute lady, Myrtle Smyth, has pioneered 10 years for a Thanks-Giving Square in Belfast (soon to open). **IN AFRICA** – Sierra Leone (with more peacekeeping troops than any nation) is directly responding to its great tragedy by declaring a national Thanksgiving Day.

So in this "Year One" of the New Century in which the world has faced great tragedy and loss, may the thousands of Harvest Thanksgiving Days and many millions of home thanksgivings gradually start the healing of humanity.

* Reported to the UN General Assembly for the 2000 International Year of Thanksgiving by the Center for World Thanksgiving December 1999. Copies available at cost on request.

VISIT THANKS-GIVING SQUARE FOR THE INSPIRATION OF THANKSGIVING

Send your ideas and support to:

THE THANKS-GIVING FOUNDATION AT THANKS-GIVING SQUARE
P.O. Box 131770 (Pacific at Ervay and Bryan) Dallas, Texas 75313-1770
Phone 214.969.1977 Fax 214.754.0152 E-mail: info@thanksgiving.org
(Checks can be made payable to The Thanks-Giving Foundation.)
Visit our Web site at www.thanksgiving.org

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING 2002

LIMITLESS BENEVOLENCE

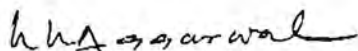
is the grace given us
in the vast interconnected creation –
light from the sun, water from the clouds,
grains for the earth, even my next breath –
all given without expecting anything back.
God remembering us, each moment.

IT INSPIRES US TO CHANGE

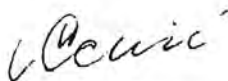
and to joy in the magnificence and majesty so freely given us.
Now we remember to remember
our thanks and giving keep the ego out and invite God in.
Seeking forgiveness brings us strength and healing.

AND TO GIVE THANKS TOGETHER

is fundamental to all religions.
May that vertical and serene gratitude deep inside each of us
purify and heal a person or even a world.
May healing be the next gift received,
changing us into thanksgiving people.



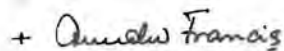
Krishan K. Aggarwal
President
India Heritage Research Foundation
Weirton, West Virginia



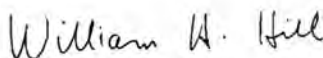
His Eminence Dr. Mustafa Ceric
Raisu-l-ulama,
The Grand Mufti of Bosnia
Bosnia and Herzegovina



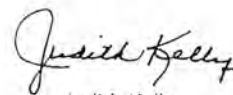
Joseph H. Ehrenkranz
Rabbi
Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding
of Sacred Heart University
Fairfield, Connecticut



Bishop Andrew Francis
Bishop of Multan and Chairman-
Christian-Muslim Relations
Pakistan



William H. Hill, CSB
Christian Science Board
of Directors, (Former Member)
Dallas, Texas



Judith Kelly
Television Producer/Professor of Drama
University of Dallas
Dallas, Texas



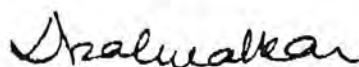
Ahmed A. Alrahman Mohamed
Secretary General
International Council for Peoples Friendship
Sudan



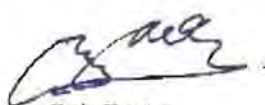
Rev. Dr. Ismael Noko
General Secretary
Lutheran World Federation
Geneva, Switzerland



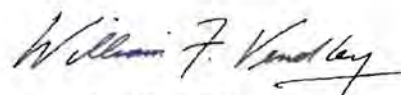
Mohammad Sammak
Secretary General
Christian-Muslim Committee for Dialogue
Beirut, Lebanon



Didi Talwalkar
Educationist
Mumbai, India



Tashi Tsering
Geshi
Representative of The Dalai Lama
London



Dr. William F. Vendley
Secretary General
World Conference of Religions for Peace
New York, New York

THANKSGIVING IS... "what unites us"

From a 1999 address by Dr. George L. Carey
the 103 Archbishop of Canterbury*



*At Assisi, separate "lamps of faith" were
placed together and formed a great light.*

SUDDENLY, WE LIVE IN A WORLD where, most unexpectedly, religion has been returned to the center stage of world history as an exceptionally powerful and decisive force.

RELIGIONS, THE GREAT REPOSITORY OF HUMAN WISDOM, can bring humanity the Thanksgiving unity of spirit and healing – or let it be perverted into conflict.

Humanity now needs
a Universal Day of Thanksgiving
to celebrate together, each year,
the gift of life,
so that the Thanksgiving that unites us
can heal us.

THANKSGIVING TIME TOGETHER IS A HEALING TIME – ask any parent or child. Ask any community over the world at their harvest time celebration together.

SO WE CAN START HEALING THE WORLD with a Universal Thanksgiving Day each year with the proven magic of gratefulness and Thanksgiving to love God and neighbor.



*140 top world religious leaders, invited to Assisi by Pope John Paul II in January 2002,
heard together in Forum the full story of the Universal Day of Thanksgiving –*

**"A World Day of Thanksgiving together, already
universally accepted by the UN's 2000 Year of Thanksgiving,
will do life-giving work for billions at the grassroots in
every continent, healing homes and communities."***

* For complete addresses, write below.



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Send your ideas and support to:

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Phone 214.969.1977 Fax 214.754.0152 E-mail: info@thanksgiving.org
(Checks can be made payable to The Thanks-Giving Foundation.)

Visit our Web site at www.thanksgiving.org

(2002 Back)

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING 2003

A WIND IN THE HEART

can give us power to unite and be healed.

We all have felt the winds of earth
that can blow us together if we help – the power to unite.

A wind in the heart is what carries us through life –
unpredictable, mysterious, sometimes painful, always compassionate.

A new path – Thanksgiving to that heart wind inside each of us.

CAN CHANGE HEARTS

In the turmoil of globalization, we see colors, cultures and tongues.

Our wind carries them all.

But the divine wind has divine purpose to open hearts to neighbors.

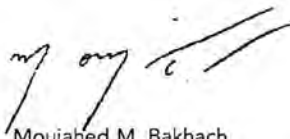
A new bond – come together and talk.

Let us all gather in a Day of Thanksgiving to the Giver,
thankful for our neighbors and the wind in their hearts.

CHANGED HEARTS CAN CHANGE WORLDS

The wind tells us to gather others in the heart of Thanksgiving,
to love our neighbor.

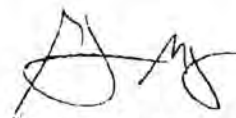
Better humans build better worlds and change of heart brings the new song.
The divine order – healing in Thanksgiving.



Moujahed M. Bakhach
Imam
Islamic Association of Tarrant County
Fort Worth, Texas



The Reverend Susan J. Barnes
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Austin, Texas



Prof. Taha M. Basman
Secretary General of the Philippine Islamic Council
National Peace and Order Council of the
Office of the President of the Philippines



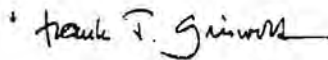
Cardinal Julius R. Darmaatmadja, S.J.
Archbishop of Jakarta
Indonesia



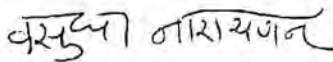
Mark Denesuk
Outstanding Orthodox Christian Layman
and Business Executive



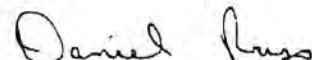
Geshe Tsultim Gyeltsen
Founder and Spiritual Director
Thubten Dhargye Ling
Center for the Study of Buddhism and Tibetan Culture
Long Beach, California



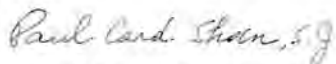
The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold
Presiding Bishop and Primate
Episcopal Church
New York, New York



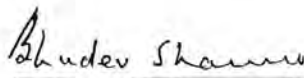
Vadudha Narayanan
Professor, Dept. of Religion
University of Florida



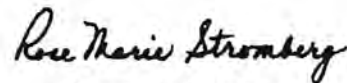
Dr. Daniel Russ
Director
The Center for Christian Studies, Gordon College
Wenham, Massachusetts



Paul Cardinal Shan Kuo-His
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Catholic Fugen University
Taiwan



Dr. BhuDev Sharma
President
World Association for Vedic Studies
Atlanta, Georgia



Rose Marie Stromberg
Human Relations Consultant
Temple Emanu-El
Dallas, Texas

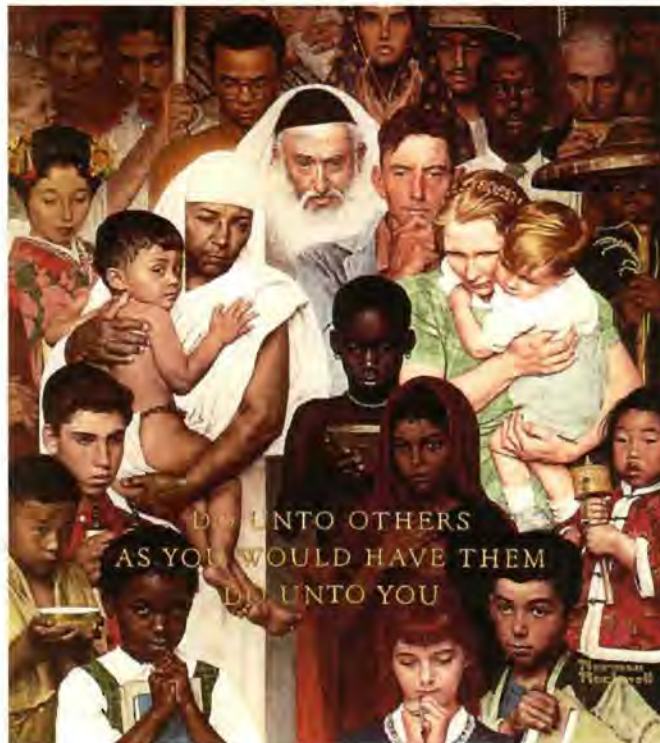
(2003 Back)

ALL OF US CAN UNITE *in the Prayer and Thanksgiving* THAT HEALS US

The great illustrator
Norman Rockwell,
disheartened at a terrible crisis
at the United Nations,
foresaw in a vision one night
this real inner strength
of prayer and Thanksgiving
binding together
the world's people.

At the United Nations
in New York,
that mosaic has become
and still remains the
favorite image for visitors.

Norman Rockwell insisted
this was his
most important work.



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A world Thanksgiving Day
is the natural outgrowth of
the millennial year 2000 –
International Year
of Thanksgiving
of the United Nations.

That 2000 Thanksgiving year
revealed thousands
of home and harvest
Thanksgivings
on every continent.

At the United Nations,
this great glass mosaic, almost eight feet square,
was the gift from America to
the United Nations on their 40th anniversary,
funded by the Thanks-Giving Square Foundation.

At Thanks-Giving Square,
this same great glass mosaic of the
people of the world in prayer and Thanksgiving
greets visitors under the belltower
as they arrive in the Court of All Nations.

A Universal Thanksgiving Day will make a coming reality of world healing.

On a Universal Thanksgiving Day each year, the "Thanksgiving together" of all people everywhere
will remind humanity repeatedly of this great truth –

Thanksgiving unites and heals – a home or world.



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Visit our Web site at www.thanksgiving.org

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING 2004

WHEN WE GIVE THANKS – DO WE COMPLETE A CIRCLE?

The heavenly gift of a baby's smile from the crib
strikes a mother's grateful heart
who sees heaven opened.

BUT LOVE HAS ALREADY RISEN HIGHER THAN A CIRCLE

For the wise mother has already
lifted the baby high from the crib
and kissed the soft baby cheek.

SO GIFTS THANKFULLY RETURNED SPIRAL UPWARD

From the Giver to the Receiver to
acts of celebration fulfilled.
May we reverence the constant giving of the Infinite
and pray to be spiraled forever upwards.

Swami Veda Bharati

Swami Veda Bharati
Disciple of Swami Rama of the Himalayas
Association of Himalayan
Yoga Meditation Societies
India

Alexandra Galbraith Costa

Alexandra Galbraith Costa
Distinguished World Citizen
Lisbon, Portugal

Thupten Donyo

The Venerable Thupten Donyo
Monk
Director and Founder of
Gyuto Vajrayana Center
San Jose, California

Monsignor Don L. Fischer

Monsignor Don L. Fischer
Pastor St. Joseph Catholic Church
Richardson, Texas

Michael L. Fitzgerald

Michael L. Fitzgerald
Archbishop
Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue
Vatican City, Italy

Honor R. Hill

Honor R. Hill
Former President
The First Church of Christ, Scientist
Boston, Massachusetts

William H. Keeler

Cardinal William H. Keeler
Archbishop of Baltimore
Baltimore, Maryland

Hans Küng

Prof. Dr. Hans Küng
Professor of Theology
President
Global Ethic Foundation
Tubingen, Germany

Feisal Abdul Rauf

Feisal Abdul Rauf
Imam, Masjid Alfarah
Founder
American Sufi Muslim Association
New York City

Ronald B. Sobel

Ronald B. Sobel
Senior Rabbi Emeritus
Congregation Emanu-El
New York City

Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed

Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed
Secretary General
Islamic Society of North America

Linus Wright

Dr. Linus Wright
Former Under Secretary
of Education
U.S. Dept. of Education

OUR LIFE – TWO RINGS (2004 Back)



GOD'S WORK

The Gold Ring of Blessing
embraces our life with Gifts
of light, air, people...

Pausing to think and thank,
we will feel the
power of gratitude flowing.

OUR WORK

The Granite Ring of Action
gives us the joys of living
to love God and neighbor.

Step forward in the divine pattern
– the interlocking two rings
of Praise and Service.



The Rings of Life are under the Belltower at Thanks-Giving Square in Dallas.



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Special thanks to TM Advertising of Irving, Texas.

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING 2005

EVERY MOMENT IS A GIFT

Our given world, given moment and given situation
are certainly a gift, a personal gift:
We have not bought, created, or deserved any of it.
You yourself are a gift; you didn't make yourself;
you just find yourself here — a gift.
The only appropriate response is to thank the Giver.
You have nothing to give back,
nothing but yourself, your very life, and so

YOUR LIVING BECOMES A THANKSGIVING

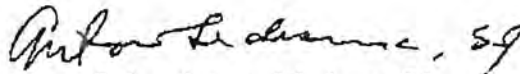
Thanksgiving — whether occasional or constant — brings joy.
Even people who have everything,
unless they are grateful — are not joyful.
Some people who have little — still are grateful.

GRATEFULNESS IS THE KEY TO JOY

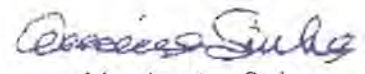
Joy is the happiness that doesn't depend on what happens.
All world religions agree — Gratitude is at their very heart.
May this thread of gratitude bind humanity together
bringing the joy of healing the world's brokenness —
true Thanksgiving in action — our call.



Dr. Muhammad Al-Habash
General Manager of Islamic Studies Center
Damascus, Syria



Bishop Antonio J. Ledesma, S.J.
Chairman, CBCP Episcopal
Commission for Interreligious Dialogue
Manila, Philippines



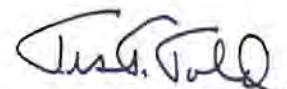
Mrs. Arunima Sinha
Hindu Leader
Columbia, SC



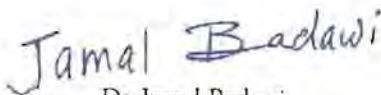
Dr. Hamid Al-Rifai
President of International Islamic
Forum for Dialogue
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia



The Reverend Alan Race
Editor-in-Chief, Interreligious Insight
& World Congress of Faiths
London, England



Thomas Tucker Toland
Episcopal Lay Leader
Dallas, Texas



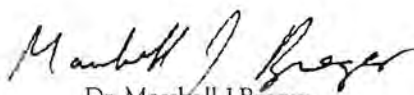
Dr. Jamal Badawi
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada



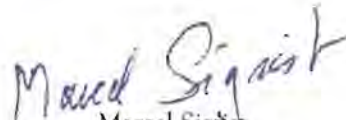
The Reverend Dr. Fred Schmidt
Director of Spiritual Life and Formation
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas



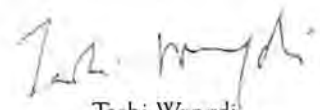
Tuppil Venkatacharya
Professor of Sanskrit
University of Toronto
Toronto, Canada



Dr. Marshall J. Breger
Professor of Law
Catholic University of America
Washington, DC



Marcel Sigrist
Dominican Monk
Renowned Assyriologist
Ecole Biblique et Archeologique Française
Jerusalem, Israel



Tashi Wangdi
Representative of H.H.
The Dalai Lama to the
Americas
New York City

We are grateful for the inspiration of Brother David Steindl-Rast.

In Thanksgiving, the globalization of the Spirit blesses and heals

(2005 Back)

1965-2005

In
prayer and thanks
good things happen.

BELFAST, IRELAND

The 60-foot
"Angel of
Thanksgiving"
was recently
erected in the
Thanksgiving
Square in
Belfast.

1965 Forty years ago the Declaration of
Nostra Aetate turned the Catholic Church outward
to other religions in friendship and dialogue.

1982 The First Declaration of World Thanksgiving started
inviting 12 world religious leaders each year to join in
thanksgiving for the Gift of life — 276 leaders to date.

1986 World religious leaders were invited to Assisi for
the "World Day of Prayer for Peace" at the height of the
Cold War — 37 months later the Berlin Wall fell.

1995 The Center for World Thanksgiving proposed to
the United Nations the 2000 International Year of
Thanksgiving that passed unanimously. In the year 2000 the
world logo became the spiral of the Chapel of Thanksgiving.

2005 As peace dawns in Ireland, after decades of conflict,
and 16 years of striving in Ireland and America, the
"Angel of Thanksgiving" is just now placed in
Thanksgiving Square — Belfast (Myrtle Smyth, founder).

Thanksgiving —
the real globalization of the spirit.

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DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING 2006

Thanksgiving Together

100 years ago, in an intolerant age in 1907, an inspired clergy invited all faiths to celebrate Thanksgiving Day together at the center of a great continent.

An overflow crowd showed up, comprised of nearly every religious faith.
One of the clergy declared in his remarks:

*The time has gone when men hate each other
Because they differ in belief.
Religion is naught but love because God is love,
And where God is — there is liberty.*
(sobering words for today)

For 50 years, these **Thanksgiving Together** gatherings continued.
Then in 1976, Thanks-Giving Square opened in Dallas. Less than 25 years later,
the United Nations named 2000 the International Year of Thanksgiving.

This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Declaration of World Thanksgiving
and the 100th anniversary of that special gathering in Dallas in 1907 that started it all.

To commemorate the occasion, we are recognizing 12 eminent past signers
of the Declaration of World Thanksgiving (see below) who represent
the 288 world leaders who have lent their name to Thanksgiving's unifying power.

DR. MUHAMMAD
ABDUL-RAUF
*Distinguished Islamic Scholar
United Arab Emirates University*

HIS HOLINESS
POPE JOHN PAUL II

ALBERT
OUTLER
*Theologian and Ecumenist
Georgia-Texas*

SHEIKH DR.
M. A. ZAKI BADAWI
*Chairman, Imams & Mosques
Council, London*

DR. INAMULLAH KHAN
*Secretary-General
World Muslim League,
Karachi, Pakistan*

MOTHER
THERESA
*Foundress, Missionaries of
Charity, Calcutta, India*

JULIET
HOLLISTER
*Foundress,
The Temple of Understanding*

HIS EMINENCE
FRANZ CARDINAL KÖNIG
*Archbishop of Vienna
and Primate of Austria*

KENRYU T. TSUJII
*Ekaji Buddhist Temple,
Former Bishop Buddhist
Churches of America*

HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS
*Primate, Greek Orthodox
Church, N. and S. America*

C.V. NARASIMHAN
*Former Undersecretary General
of the United Nations and
Distinguished Hindu layman*

RABBI WALTER
S. WURZBURGER
*Honorary President
Synagogue Council of America*

(2006 Back)

The globalization of the spirit

We salute the 288 world religious leaders who have joined thanksgiving's globalizing spirit by signing past Declarations of World Thanksgiving.

They are represented by the 12 eminent signers below.

The first Declaration of World Thanksgiving was sparked by Franz Cardinal König's challenge in 1981: "Nations have Thanksgiving Proclamations called by Presidents. Why is there no Thanksgiving Proclamation for the world?" In 1982 there was.



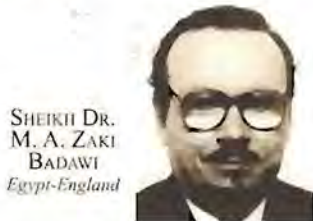
DR. MUHAMMAD
ABDUL-RAUF
*Distinguished
Islamic Scholar
Egypt - Washington*



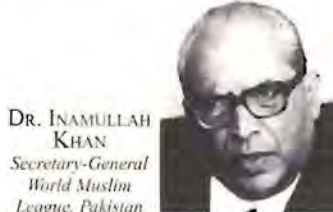
HIS HOLINESS
POPE JOHN
PAUL II



ALBERT
OUTLER
*Theologian
and Ecumenist
Georgia-Texas*



SHEIKH DR.
M. A. ZAKI
BADAWI
Egypt-England



DR. INAMULLAH
KHAN
*Secretary-General
World Muslim
League, Pakistan*



MOTHER THERESA
*Foundress,
Missionaries
of Charity,
Albania-India*



JULIET HOLLISTER
*Foundress,
The Temple
of Understanding*



FRANZ CARDINAL
KÖNIG
*Archbishop of Vienna
and Primate of Austria*



KENRYU T.
TSUJI
*Former Bishop
Buddhist Churches
of America*



ARCHBISHOP
IAKOVOS
*Primate, Greek
Orthodox Church, N.
and S. America*



C.V. NARASIMHAN
*Former Undersecretary
General of the UN and
Distinguished Hindu
layman*



RABBI WALTER
S. WURZBURGER
*Honorary President
Synagogue Council
of America*

Thanksgiving Together

Humanity has re-discovered its common language.



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DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING - 2007

WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING?

The belief that there is someone to whom we owe our thanks.

The universe did not create itself or occur by chance.

A world wide spirit wells up within us
telling us clearly that life has come as a gift.

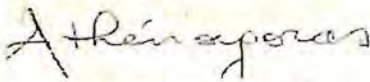
AN INNER MOVEMENT

Beneath and beyond the conscious mind. It expresses itself in joy
rising within us, a gift, not of our own making,
speaking to us of a great Affirmative Design,
and we are given a moment of response.

Without a spirit of Thanksgiving the meaning and grace of
the Larger Plan beyond our ordinary life, dies without remembering
that "it is He that has made us, not we ourselves."

FOR OUR NEW VENTURE IN HUMAN HISTORY

A new world vision of Thanksgiving today can continue to show us anew
the power of the spirit renewing and raising our human condition,
aware once more of the gifts, dimensions, and power of the Divine.



Bishop Athenagoras
Bishop of Sinope



Rev. Michael Barry
Associate Pastor
St. Mary Catholic Church



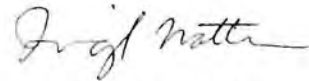
Dr. Satish Kapoor
Director of Historical Studies
Lyallpur Khalsa College
Jalandhar, India



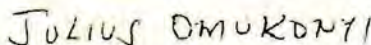
Daisy Khan
Executive Director
ASMA Society
New York, NY



Rev. Andrea Krasznai
Acting President
Int. Assoc of Civil Aviation
Budapest Hungary



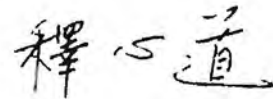
Ingrid Mattson
President, Islamic Assoc of
North America
Hartford, Connecticut



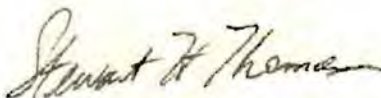
Captain Julius Omukonyi
Airports Chaplains Coordinator
JKI Airport
Nairobi, Kenya



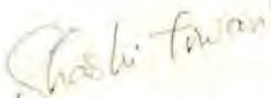
Tareq Oubrou
Rector & Imam, Al-Huda Mosque
Bordeaux, France



Dharma Master Hsin Tao
Founder, Museum of World Religions
Taipei, Taiwan



Stewart Thomas
Church & Civic Leader
Dallas, Texas



Dr. Shashi Tiwari
World Assoc of Vedic Studies,
New Delhi, India



Rabbi Robert S. Widom
Temple Emanuel of Great Neck, NY

(Grateful for the 1969 text of Dr. Louise Cowan)

THE ACTION OF LIVING – THE GLUE OF GRATITUDE

(2007 BACK)

[The Personal 2007 Reflections of Dr. Louise Cowan

1969 Author of *The Spirit of Thanksgiving*]

How do we put thanksgiving into action? – not just a simple saying “thank you” automatically. But it’s some kind of transforming power that changes people. And we want nothing short of changing our home; we want to transform our world, a thankful society.

Because a thankful society has a kind of glue that holds it together, a graciousness. How do we as emissaries of Thanksgiving put it into action?

First of all by recognizing that thankfulness is not just a feeling - but an act. We can decide that we ought to be thankful, and then by making that admission - we can become thankful. Then we realize that everything we have is a gift.

It’s easy to think of the good things as gifts, but when you start thinking of the trouble and the sorrow and sufferings as gifts, your life is changed.

And I speak as someone whose life was changed by thanksgiving - to look at pain and disappointment as a gift. And when we do that, we recognize that somebody has us in mind, that life is tailored for us.

Even if we don’t like the gift, it was given to us personally by someone. And so that alters the way we feel about, say a broken leg. If we can think of it as a gift, instead of just an accident, then we are changed by it, and our whole lives are changed. And we can go on then and see that all life is a gift.

Our lives didn’t need to have happened, they are pure gift. And that glorifies them, makes them a delight and a joy.

So we ourselves have to become transformed, no longer thinking of thanksgiving as superficial, but that we live and breathe thankfulness - it’s possible to do it. This is how we put thanksgiving - into the action of living.

300 religious leaders from many countries and all continents, from high and low positions, have signed the twenty-five Declarations of World Thanksgiving since the 1981 challenge, “Can there be a Declaration of World Thanksgiving?”
Thanksgiving worldwide is apparently something everyone wants to be a part of.

VISIT THANKS-GIVING SQUARE FOR THE INSPIRATION OF THANKSGIVING

Send your ideas and support to:

THE THANKS-GIVING FOUNDATION AT THANKS-GIVING SQUARE
P.O. Box 131770 (at Akard, Pacific, and Ervay) Dallas, Texas 75313-1770
Phone 214.969.1977 Fax 214.754.0152 E-mail: infor@thanksgiving.org
(Checks can be made payable to The Thanks-Giving Foundation)

Visit our Website at www.thanksgiving.org



DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING 2008

ONE CLEAR CALL OF GRATITUDE

can wake us up and raise our consciousness
of the precious opportunities we have been given.
Enduring wisdom of the ages teaches us to practice Thanksgiving
to enjoy the ongoing gift of life.
We can either ignore our raised consciousness
or suddenly rejoice in it

DRINKING FROM THE SPARKLE OF THE GIVEN MOMENT

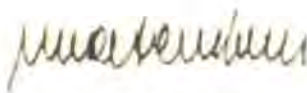
The illusion of entitlement denies
that we are given everything from birth to death.
Ego makes it the ego's own invention.
But if we practice wonderment
at the priceless gift of each day - that changes life.

THANKFULNESS MYSTERIOUSLY GIVES HAPPINESS

Greed, apathy and fear deny life,
but thankfulness affirms joy and strength
and seizes the surprise of each moment.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad R. Abu Layla
Al Azhar University
Cairo, Egypt



His Serene Highness
Prince Nikolaus von Liechtenstein



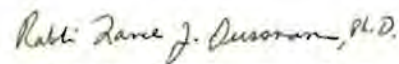
Dr. Mandyam D. Srinath
Professor of Electrical Engineering
Southern Methodist University



Roshi Joan Halifax
Zen Center
Santa Fe, New Mexico



Kenneth J. Palmer
Lay Leader
St. Michaels and All Angels



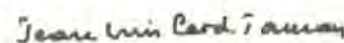
Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel
Elkins, Pennsylvania



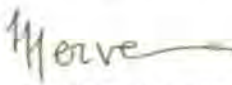
Father Seraphim Hipsh
St. Sava Orthodox Church
Plano, Texas



Hon. Jeanne L. Phillips
U.S. Ambassador (ret.)



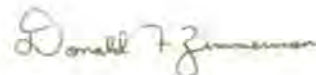
Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran
Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue
Vatican



Dr. Merve Kavakci
Member of Parliament - 1999
Ankara, Turkey



Mohammad Rasul
Honored Chapel Charge
Thanks-Giving Square



Rev. Msgr. Donald F. Zimmerman
Pastor
Christ the King Catholic Church

(Grateful to the inspiration of Brother David Steindl-Rast)

(2008 Back)

THE WORLD THANKSGIVING DAY EACH YEAR
CAN BE THE HEARTBEAT OF HUMANITY'S HEALING

Thanksgivings and Harvests Gain Power Each Year and Always Unite Us



World scholars gathered at the Center for World Thanksgiving in July 2008 from great and ancient world cultures to further define the gratitudes of humanity. They found Thanksgiving a great common treasure and powerful harmony. They added profound academic expertise to past evidence gathered since 1969 including major seminars with Harvard I and II, Liechtenstein, and Kyoto plus sixteen Thanksgiving Roundtables Discussion seminars [see below]; and the United Nations Thanksgiving Home and Culture Study in 40 countries in all continents.

Thanksgivings repeated each year grow in meaning – and are treasured in all cultures- and our world culture - The World Thanksgiving Day will make possible the new “Century of Thanksgiving” that Sir John Templeton envisioned in 1999.

Sixteen World Thanksgiving Roundtables : Auckland, New Zealand; Bangalore, India; Barcelona; Buenos Aires; Cairo, Egypt; Nanjing, Hong Kong; Los Angeles; Oxford; Paris; United Nations; Vatican; Washington, D.C.; Westminster Abbey; Selly Oaks, England; Vancouver, Canada.

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