

## 47th Anniversary: Nostra Aetate

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*In our time, when day by day mankind is being drawn closer together, and the ties between different peoples are becoming stronger, the Church examines more closely her relationship to non-Christian religions...*

Thus begins the Roman Catholic Church's **Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions**, better known by its first two words, *nostra aetate*, "in our time". It was promulgated 47 years ago today--October 28, 1965.

Originally titled **Decretum de Judaeis**, "Declaration on the Jews," this text--whose final form had (and has) wide-ranging implications for Catholics' relationships with all religions--began as a piece concerned only with **Christian-Jewish relations**. Much has been written about the meanings in, effects of, and history leading up to this important milestone. Here are a few examples from BJPA:

- **Vatican Council II's Statement on the Jews: Five Years Later** | AJC, 1971
- **Christian Statements and Documents Bearing on Christian-Jewish Relations** | Judith Hershcopf Banki. AJC, 1972
- **A Study of the History of the Relations Between Jews and Christians Throughout the Centuries** | Jean Paul Lichtenberg. Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel, 1979
- **Nostra Aetate--After 20 Years** | Alfred Wolf. Sh'ma, 1985
- **Jews, Judaism and Catholic Education** | Rose Thering. AJC, ADL, Seton Hall U., 1986
- **Catholics and Jews: The New Frontiers** | A. James Rudin. AJC, 1986
- **Catholic-Jewish Relations 40 Years After Nostra Aetate** | David Rosen. AJC, 2005

- **Wide Horizons: Abraham Joshua Heschel, AJC, and the Spirit of Nostra Aetate**

| Gary Spruch. AJC, 2008

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