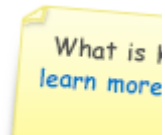


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## Muslim and Jewish Leaders Praise Pope John Paul II as a Master Bridge-builder

Apr 7, 2005 | 525 words, 0 images

WASHINGTON, April 7 -- Muslim and Jewish leaders praised Pope John Paul II as a master bridge-builder whose extraordinary outreach to people of other faiths will shape the world for years to come.

Speaking at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, Imam Yahya Hendi, Muslim Chaplain at Georgetown University, said the world, and Islam in particular, have lost a great friend.

"He built bridges between religious communities and promoted religious freedom and tolerance," Imam Hendi said. "His passion for his ministry, compassion for the poor, and his respect for human life made him a beacon of light and a source of hope not only for Catholics but for all people, including Muslims."

The Polish Pope's life-long relationship to the Jewish People charted a new course that "broke the chains of 2,000 years of painful history between Catholics and Jews," said Rabbi Abie Ingber. He is co-executive director of an upcoming exhibit on Pope John Paul II and the Jewish people as well as executive director of the Hillel Jewish Student Center in Cincinnati.

By fostering interfaith relationships and dialogue, "the Holy Father arguably has done more for interreligious relationships than .../continued/

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