

Welcome by Cardenal José Cobo

Dear friends,

Be welcome. The Catholic Archdiocese of Madrid welcomes you with all its affection and hospitality.

This House rejoices in your presence. You come from different parts of the world and profess different faiths.

However, you help a precious miracle to occur: the diversity of origins, races and religions does not prevent us from being united together around something essential: to achieve maximum protection for the places of worship of the different religious confessions.

Indeed, the PROTONE PROJECT that you promote from the European Union and that you support from different academic and religious fields, intends that the holy places for believers, especially synagogues, churches and mosques, have the greatest security.

In this way, the three great religions of the Book display a happy reason to dialogue, meet and make fruitful their rich heritage of centuries. In this old Spain we have lived together at many times and we have supported each other's heritage.

Taking care of ourselves together is a happy path for our humanity to discover the source of our traditions through our presence and the school that our heritage offers.

Caring for it and supporting it together is a sign that refers to the One from whom we come and is another sign that different religions can and must work together in different fields, so we are happy to host such an event.

Caring for people's heritage and safety is a way of caring for religious freedom, enshrined in a multitude of international treaties. Religious freedom would be devoid of content without an effective concern for the safety of the places of worship in which it is practiced and of the people who inhabit them.

Thank you to the 8 organizations from Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and Spain for your efforts to provide a coordinated response to the threats of intolerance and radicalism in their diversity of forms.

We know that it is a silent task. It takes small efforts, but we understand that it is a precious sowing that has an impact on the life of all traditions.

Thank you all for making it possible. Thank you for your commitment to "harmonize diversity" in an aspect so relevant to religious freedom.

And thank you to those who thus work for peace and justice in our world through the life of our traditions.

May God, the Lord, the Gracious and Merciful continue to help us in this effort to make relations between us more fraternal and to build a world that is ever more just, secure and at peace.

Be welcome to this city and to this community that always embraces and respects you.