



UNION

*Religious Worlds of New York* • *Curriculum Development Project*

## Learning Together – Locally and Globally

*Patrick Connelly, Aquinas Institute of Rochester, Rochester, NY*

### **Project:**

Learning Together is an interactive project run through a Theology 10 class at the Aquinas Institute to expose students to interfaith dialogue, preparing them to become young leaders in the Rochester community and beyond. The goal of this curriculum is to reframe and expand [Generation Global](#) (a program of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, formerly known as Face to Faith) and will not only perfectly complement this work, but given its excellent resources and activities guide, replace much of what has been done to prepare students with the skills necessary for successful dialogue. Connecting online and connecting through video conferencing facilitated by the Generation Global staff will complement the existing relationships Aquinas has enjoyed with Academy of Our Lady of Peace High School in San Diego, the Kispesti Karolyi Mihaly Gimnazium in Budapest and Maccabim Reut-Mor School in Modi'in Israel. Generation Global will bring new voices into the classroom exposing students to an even greater diversity that is part of our global community.

### **Goals:**

Through participation in Generation Global, students will:

- learn and practice the essentials of effective dialogue that will benefit them as they navigate an increasing diverse community and world.
- receive some training to become leaders among their peers as they model respect of difference.
- engage in proper use of technology as they blog and videoconference for the purpose of academic exchange and respectful dialogue.
- be challenged to consider issues from perspectives different from their own.
- be supported in exhibiting the tradition of Basilian Fathers (to be taught Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge) and in the quest to live out the mission of the school.
- be exposed to another way to become responsible, caring citizens and support global efforts to create a more peaceful world.
- have opportunities to share their work with peers and in the Rochester community.

## Implementation:

The class meets for one period each school day for forty minutes. The primary job is to cover the tenth grade Sacred Scripture curriculum over the course of two semesters. Students have volunteered to be scheduled for this class with the understanding that they are responsible for the same sophomore curriculum as their peers, but will spend fewer class sessions on the topic because of their participation in what we have formerly called Project: Learning Together.

Class time will be taken out of the 10th grade curriculum as follows:

September	4 classes
October	4 classes
November	3 classes
December	2 classes
January	2 classes
February	3 classes
March	3 classes
April	3 classes
May	4 classes
Total	28 classes over the course of 9 months

During these class sessions, students will be led through the following Introductory Lessons, which include:

Introduction to the Project(s), Parent/Guardian Letter; Student Letter; Expectations from the [Essentials of Dialogue Handbook](#):

What is Dialogue?  
Skills of Dialogue.  
Identity & Respect.  
Influences.

Navigating the websites used to blog and use of moodle message forums

Expectations and Procedures for Video Conferencing and Skype Sessions

***For information about the Religious Worlds of New York summer institute for teachers, and more resources to enrich your teaching on religious diversity, see: [www.religiousworldsnyc.org](http://www.religiousworldsnyc.org).***