



**International Jewish Committee  
for Interreligious Consultations**

His Holiness, Pope Francis  
His Eminence, Cardinal Kurt Koch  
The Vatican

January 1, 2023

Your Holiness,  
Your Excellency,

On behalf of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, we write to express our condolences to you and to the entire Roman Catholic Church on the passing of Pope Benedict XVI.

We gratefully recall his powerful words at Auschwitz and his steadfast and consistent stand against all expressions of antisemitism.

We will also remember Pope Benedict for his deep engagement with Judaism and the Jewish people. His contribution to the *Jewish People and Their Scripture in the Christian Bible*; his detailed refutation of the deicide charge in his book about Jesus (and his subsequent friendship with Jacob Neusner); and his engagement with European rabbis after his *Communio* article all demonstrate his commitment not only to his faith and to his church, but also to scholarship and to serious and substantive dialogue.

May his memory be a blessing,

Rabbi David Fox Sandmel, Chair  
Rabbi Mark Dratch, Vice-Chair  
Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand, Treasurer

**Member Organizations**

American Jewish Committee • Anti-Defamation League • B'nai B'rith International  
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World Jewish Congress

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