

Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education

Fordham University

Bronx, NY

February 14, 2013

Dear Members of the World Interfaith Harmony Committee,

Charles (Chuck) Chesnavage is a doctoral student in our PhD program in the Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education at Fordham University, New York. Mr. Chesnavage's work, interest and practice for nearly a decade now has focused on inter-religious concerns. His academic work is a rich testament to this commitment. He has presented papers at academic conferences in this area. In particular, I note, his recent presentation on the Sacrifice of Isaac from a Christian, Muslim, and Jewish perspective at the annual conference of the Religious Education Association.

Mr. Chesnavage's Qualifying Paper for his PhD – an extensive piece of scholarship equivalent to comprehensive examinations – focused on the inter-religious family and marriages. This very fine paper noted his experience with the Lakota Native American ceremonies. Mr. Chesnavage's current and future academic research in his doctoral dissertation is on inter-religious prayer.

For some nine years, Mr. Chesnavage has planned and participated in an annual Inter-Religious Prayer Service for Peace and Justice. The service took place this year on Sunday, February 3, at 2pm at the Monastery Church of the Sacred Heart in Yonkers, NY. Chuck registered this year's service celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week as one of the events from around the world.

Inter-religious dialogue, practices and prayer are imperative for a peaceful and harmonious world today. Mr. Chesnavage has a vivid sense of this local and global imperative. On multiple levels, he also lives it out in practice. I urge the World Interfaith Committee to recognize him for his work as a planner of the annual Interreligious Prayer Service for Justice and Peace. His innovative work in this area is helping to mend our broken world.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kieran Scott

Associate Professor

GSRRE

Fordham University, New York