

Qalvy Grainzvolt
On behalf of the Shinnyo-en Buddhist Order
370 North Street White Plains, NY 10605

RE: The 9th Annual Inter-religious Prayer Service for Peace and Justice celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week

Sacred Heart lives up to its name with the both the profound architecture and decor as well as the sacred atmosphere experienced by all who attended the interfaith ceremony on February 3, 2013.

It was a great honor to be a part of this intimate interfaith service as a representative of the Buddhist spiritual tradition. Furthermore, it was an honor to participate as a fellow human being who shares the wish to see peace and harmony prevail in this world one day sooner. We had the opportunity to bask in the positivity and harmony that marked this experience. A retelling of the historical interfaith encounter between St. Francis and Islamic leader Sultan Malik Al-Kamil around the time of the Crusades by Mr. Charles Chesnavage of Sacred Heart set the tone for the service. It was a fitting way to commemorate the milestone of the U.N. resolution calling for a world interfaith harmony week. It was uplifting to hear the prayers for peace take so many different sounds, words, and energies as the representatives of various spiritual traditions shared their prayers with all in attendance. It was heart-warming to see children and youth as part of the ceremony as they are indeed our future. I learned to never underestimate the power of planting small seeds of peace, whenever, wherever, as it can sprout in magnificent and unforeseen ways. I truly believe the service at Sacred Heart and the opportunity to refresh our pledge to see peace manifest in this world is needed time and time again. How precious that the still fresh year of 2013 could start with the planting of such small seeds. May they blossom into peace on day sooner.