



EL-HIBRI  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Cardinal McCarrick Challenges Muslim and Christian Leaders at El-Hibri Charitable Foundation Iftar**

**Washington, DC - July 17, 2013** - This year, the El-Hibri Charitable Foundation (ECF) chose a day of Muslim and Jewish fasting to host the Third Annual Ibrahim El-Hibri Interfaith Iftar dinner, with a keynote address delivered by His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick. July 16<sup>th</sup> marked the eighth day of Ramadan, as well as the Ninth of Av, a solemn day of remembrance when Jews reflect on historical tragedies befalling the Jewish community.

Christian, Jewish, Muslim and interfaith leaders, as well as Washington dignitaries, came together for the annual discussion and dinner at the Foundation's downtown building. H.E. Cardinal McCarrick spoke on the enduring significance of the "Common Word" initiative, a major Muslim-Christian interfaith dialogue and peace-building initiative. His Eminence also noted that the two great themes of the Common Word – love of neighbor and love of God – represent preeminent precepts in Jewish scripture.

H.E. Cardinal McCarrick, who served the Archdiocese of Washington from 2001 to 2006, spoke about the challenges of broadly disseminating the groundbreaking work of the Common Word, as well as perennial challenges associated with religious communities living up to their ideals. He noted, "We must labor for a new era of interfaith cooperation to unfold, one based on love, not fear."

"More than half of the people of the world are Christians and Muslims," the Cardinal remarked, "and we already see what happens when we don't know or understand each other." The key to achieving substantial interfaith peace, he observed, is "to move from talking *to* one another to talking *with* one another" and to grow "from understanding to *appreciating*" each other.

Fuad El-Hibri, Chair of the El-Hibri Foundation's Board of Trustees, noted that "His Eminence spoke from the heart about the challenges and the urgency of interfaith relationship-building and respect," priorities that are "entirely in line with the spirit and mission of the Foundation."

Newly-appointed President Judy Barsalou, a veteran of the US Institute of Peace and the Ford Foundation, introduced the Cardinal and highlighted the emerging work of the El-Hibri Charitable Foundation, now a dozen years old.

Previous Ibrahim El-Hibri Interfaith Lecturers include Rabbi Dr. Marc Gopin and Dr. Seyyed Hossein Nasr. Imam Mohamed Magid, the President of the Islamic Society of North America and leader of the ADAMS Center in Dulles, led the call to prayer.

#### **About the El-Hibri Charitable Foundation**

The El-Hibri Charitable Foundation seeks to build a better world by embracing the universally shared values of Islam: peace and social justice. To advance this vision the Foundation makes grants, conducts programs, sponsors educational fora and collaborates with like-minded organizations to promote peace education, foster interfaith understanding, advance women's rights and create opportunities for disadvantaged youth in the Middle East to lead productive lives.

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