

Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day

For Yom HaShoah 2013, I share one very poignant memory.

In 1990 I traveled to Prague as part of the Jewish delegation to an International meeting between the Jewish community and the Vatican's Commission on the Religious Relations with the Jews. Cardinal Edward Cassidy had just taken over. Prior to the start of our meet-ings, we all took a trip to Theresienstadt.

While we walked down the outside path of memorials to the cities that lost individuals there, we agreed that there would be no speeches - just a silent witness together - Jews and Catholics huddled together in the cold and raw atmosphere (literally and figuratively). We reached the end of the path, and there was the only memorial that mentioned specifically the murder of Jews. One of our delega-tion began to cry as he had lost his grandparents at that site. Above his weepings, the sounds of the most beautiful chant began - in Hebrew. Psalm 121 came from among our group - the strains of a cantor of great talent. As I looked over my shoulder to see who was chanting, it was Father Marcel Dubois - one of the giants of Catholic-Jewish reconciliation, and an Ohayv Yisrael (a lover of Israel), and resident of Jerusalem until his passing.

On this day of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) let us remember, not just the enormity of our loss and the world's loss - not just the reality that humanity has within itself the ability to cause unspeakable acts of barbarism - but also the tenderness of the hearts of those that seek to salve the pain that this day recalls. People like the late Marcel Dubois remind us that in the face of hatred, there is still hope.

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