

Joseph Sievers and Miriam Girardi, eds.,
*Walking Together: Jews and Christians
in Dialogue in Rome, Jerusalem, and
Buenos Aires; Camminare insieme: Ebrei e
Cristiani in dialogo a Roma, Gerusalemme
e Buenos Aires*. Rome: Tipografia Citta
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This is a collection of brief essays on various aspects of Judaism and Christian-Jewish relations given at several Christian-Jewish dialogues organized in Rome, Jerusalem, and Buenos Aires. These dialogues, initiated by the Focolare Movement of the Catholic Church in collaboration with various

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Jewish organizations and individuals, occurred between 1998 and 2011. The volume contains English and Italian texts of the essays.

The Focolare Movement certainly deserves commendation for this important effort toward implementing the fourth chapter of the Second Vatican Council's groundbreaking statement on Christian-Jewish relations in its 1965 document *Nostra Aetate*. The movement has been a leader in the important challenge of implementing the constructive vision of Christian-Jewish relations generated in this conciliar text. The book includes important statements in this regard by the late Chiara Lubich, founder of the Focolare Movement, and by its current president, Maria Voce.

It appears that the original purpose of these essays was to initiate discussion at the various meetings organized by the Focolare Movement. They tend to focus more on the basic approach to dialogue than on the theological content of that dialogue. However, some essays, such as Pope Francis' rabbinic colleague Rabbi Abraham Skorka's piece on the meaning of *berakhah* and longtime Jewish participant Rabbi Jack Bemporad's contribution on ethical and religious aspects of the Hebrew Bible, are a bit more in depth. But these essays never directly take up the question of how these issues relate to actual dialogue between Christians and Jews.

Several of the essays allude to a positive relationship between the fundamental spirituality of the Focolare Movement and Jewish spirituality. That said, the volume could have explored this important theme in a more comprehensive way. The same holds true for the volume's emphasis on the dialogue of culture, which is highlighted as a special interest of the Focolare Movement. Overall the volume focuses on the style and methodology of authentic dialogue between Christians and Jews, a kind of dialogue that will

take different forms in different geographic settings, such as Jerusalem and Rome.

This book provides valuable insight into how to approach Jewish-Christian dialogue for those just beginning such a dialogue. Contributors include important longtime participants in the Jewish-Christian dialogue such as Rabbi David Rosen, the late Cardinal Carlo Martini, S.J., and Hana Bendcowsky. The essays also introduce potential members of this ongoing dialogue to key issues such as the relationship between particularity and universalism. Therefore, this volume will prove most useful for group discussions and will establish the sensitivity necessary for the dialogue to thrive. Those interested in a more in-depth exploration of specific religious issues within the framework of the Jewish-Christian dialogue will need to explore additional texts.