

The TEDx logo is displayed in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

# ViaDellaConciliazione

x = independently organized TED event

## **Religious Freedom Today, *TEDxViaDellaConciliazione***

On the 19th of April, 2013, an international event will take place in Rome. This high-profile event will take place in the Auditorium Conciliazione in the territory of the Vatican State.

Freedom of religion today, across a wide range of fields art, music, sport, science, culture, and the web. TEDxViaDellaConciliazione and will host speakers from around the world to tell, in the style of TED, their stories that are worth spreading, also to be available to the whole global audience on the web.

Not many people in Italy are aware of TED, but in the United States, TED is a platform to share brilliant ideas. TED is visited on the web by one million people every day.

Ted is a non-profit organization devoted to ideas worth spreading. At ted the world's leading thinkers and doers are asked to give the talk of their lives in 18 minutes. Ted speakers have included the likes of Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Gordon Brown, Isabel Allende and Bono.

In the spirit of Ideas Tedx is a program of local , self-organized events are branded Tedx where x 0 independently organized TED event. TEDx ViA DELLA CONCILIAZIONE aims at mutual understanding and the promotion of respect for religious freedom in each nation of the world as stated in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948.

After a year-long search for the most interesting unheard voices we found speakers with extraordinary powerful stories: Hussah Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah (Kuwait), Singer Gloria ESTEFAN (USA), Chief Rabbi David Rosen (Jerusalem), Sumaya Slim (Mexico), Architect Fernando Romero (Mexico), Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi (Vatican State), Educator Wenzong Wang (China), Nurse Alicia Vacas (Jerusalem), NBA star Vlade Divac (Serbia), Astronomer Brother Guy Consolmagno (Specola Vaticana), Scientist Pilar Mateo, (Spain), graffiti writer Mohammed Ali, (UK). IT guru Hisham El-Sherif (Egypt) Jews Shroud investigator Barrie Schwartz (USA), art historian Elizabeth Lev, (Italy).

These speakers are asked to answer, with their own stories, some of these core questions for humanity.

- Does religion still matter in our contemporary society?
- Are freedom and religion antitheses?
- Can religion contribute to human development?
- Is reason open to transcendence?
- What gives real substance to live?

TEDxviadellaconciliazione received

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**Gloria Estefan:** Cuba born pop singer to give us messages of peace through the worlds of a song: Alla del rancor.

**Wenzong Wang:** educator in Yezhi, Yunnan, China. He often says to his students: "I am a single parent with hundreds of children". The education he provides to these children is immersed in the rich Confucian tradition.

**Rabbi David Rosen:** one of the world's most important figures in inter-religious affairs. He believes that fruitful inter-religious dialogue comes from faithfulness to our individual religious traditions, not from ignoring or eradicating religion, which leads to fundamentalism.

**Vlade Divac:** a World Champion Basketball Player from Serbia. With the beginning of the Balkan wars his relationship with Croat NBA player and Divac's closest friend Drazen Petrovic abruptly ended. In 1995 before Divac and Petrovic were able to reconcile Petrovic died in a car crash. The documentary, "Once Brothers," witnesses their story.

**Cardinal Ravasi:** In the advanced culture of today how can religion solves the riddles of human conditions.

**Guy Consolmagno:** Planetary Scientist at the Vatican Observatory and a Jesuit brother. When he was in Kenya he taught suffering people about astronomy. He discovered that the desire for scientific knowledge is not limited to educated westerners but is original and alive in the poor and uneducated, in this way he discovered that astronomy belongs to us all.

**Pilar Mateo:** a chemist who has given her life to the elimination of deadly diseases and to the empowerment of and solidarity with those affected by them. For this reason the Guariani people gave her the name "The White Angel".

**Sheika Hussah Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah:** a member of the Kuwaiti ruling family during her life she brought together the islamic heritage of her nation and shared it with the world. She amassed a comprehensive and impressive collection of more than twenty thousand pieces of Islamic art from 7th to 19th centuries.

**Soumaya Slim** is the curator of Soumaya Museum in Mexico City she quotes: Beauty is a right, especially for those who rarely see the beauty, and the extraordinary act of creation of man's creativity.

**Fernando Romero** is the visionary architect of Soumaya Museu. In modern city the power of invention contribute to the formation of common ground. Museums are the new cathedrals.

**Franco Vaccari:** with La Rondine cittadella della Pace in Arezzo he demonstrates that it' is possible to create an environment where young people of different cultures and religions can live together in closer relationships even if "enemies". Fraternity is possible.

**Hisham El-Sharif:** he is an IT guru in Egypt, he shows how revolution 2.0 is a peaceful revolution and how to build prosperity and progress on a foundation of religious liberty, economic freedom, and personal moral responsibility.

Barrie Schwartz: a Jew who spent his life on scientific research on the most important Christian reliquia: the Shroud.