

tradition of process theology. The movement in Judaism of which I am a part -- Reconstructionist Judaism -- is based on the thinking of a 20th century American rabbi, Mordecai Kaplan, who was deeply influenced by modern science and by process theology. Some Muslims I know in the United States have found Kaplan's work helpful in their own thinking.

Religious insights can also be brought to bear on science. Science does not generate its own values, except for a commitment to a rigorous search for truth. But, as has been pointed out so many times in this conference, our religious traditions are the custodians of spiritual values. Some religious people have seen their role vis a vis science to try to arbitrate what ought *not* to be discovered. This does not work very well. For example, in America, certain Christians have tried to curtail government funding of embryonic stem cell research. The effort has had only limited success. The research which is not being funded in the United States due to their efforts is now taking place in Asia. Furthermore, our traditions do not all agree on what should not be done. Embryonic stem cell research is a good example of that diversity across traditions and even within a given tradition. The questions of bioethics are also topics about which we can have some very helpful dialogue.

What is most important, I believe, is for those of us in communities of faith to consider the values that we share and use the occasion of our interreligious dialogue to discuss how to focus the work of science and technology on promoting those values. Every one of our traditions has an interest in feeding God's children and protecting God's earth. We would like to see scientists devote themselves to learning more about shortages of food and water and natural resources. It is here our religious traditions have much to say and in my experience in America I have found that we often can speak in a common voice.

Let me close then with another picture. Like my opening picture, this one is true. But rather than from the 12th century, this picture comes from just last month. Meeting in a hotel in Washington, D.C. were rabbis, Roman Catholic religious leaders, ministers and imams as well as learned laymen and women. The room was filled with skull caps, robes, clerical collars, nun's habits, hijabs. The leaders were gathered to meet for three days and offer a public statement on "Religious Traditions