

DOHA THIRD CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

JUNE 29-30, 2005

Rabbi Jose Rolando Matalon

I am very grateful to His Highness the Emir of Qatar as for his great leadership and vision by inviting of all of us to dialogue, and for his kind hospitality. I am very humbled to be among you and by the opportunity to address you.

I am Rabbi Jose Rolando Matalon. I was born and grew up in Argentina. My grandparents came there from Aleppo, Syria. I am grateful that the cultures of Islam and Christianity enriched my life as a Jew.

I have lived for the past 23 years in New York City where I am the rabbi of Congregation Bnai Jeshurun, a synagogue community of approximately 4,000 people.

As religious people we are all familiar with and proud of the great contributions of our religious traditions to humanity:

- Religion has been a vehicle for connection with the transcendent, with the Holy One and with Oneness.
- Religion has been a source of values: justice, righteousness, peace, truth, compassion, generosity.
- Religion has promoted human dignity and freedom.
- Religion has provided stability in a changing, often confusing world.