



**Provincialate : 4A Chestnut Drive, Singapore 679330.**

**Tel: 67602461**

**website: [www.chij-sisters.org](http://www.chij-sisters.org)**



**The Inter-Religious Organisation, Singapore (IRO)** was founded in 1949.

## Logo

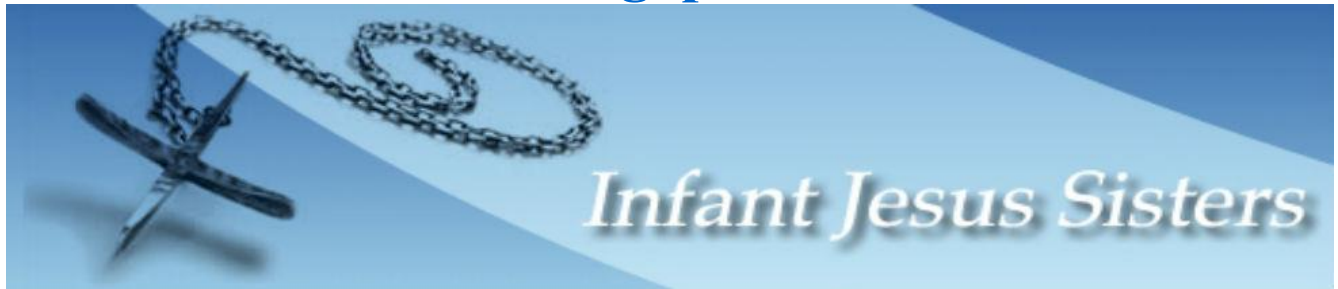
The IRO logo is a symbol of religious harmony and understanding in Singapore. Ten religions are represented in the [IRO](#), namely Hinduism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Taoism, Jainism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and the Baha'i Faith.

The idea for an interfaith organisation grew over the course of several meetings, and the Inter-Religious Organisation of Singapore and Johor Bahru was officially inaugurated at the Victoria Memorial Hall on 18 March 1949. The event, which included the organisation's first public lecture, was attended by more than 2,000 people. Representatives of the various religions in Singapore spoke on the role that religion plays in contributing to peace.

## Organisational aims

The IRO aims to promote the spirit of friendship and cooperation among leaders and followers of different religions for the good of mankind. It also seeks to accord followers of different religions mutual respect, and provide them with assistance and protection so as to foster close cooperation within its membership for the common good of the community.

It originally represented six religions: Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism. Over the years, it expanded to include Zoroastrianism, Taoism, the Bahá'í Faith and Jainism.



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The IRO is registered under the Societies Act, and is a non-governmental organisation with no legal powers or authority.

## Functions of the IRO

Since its humble beginnings, IRO has worked quietly to promote peace and religious harmony in Singapore. The IRO has been involved in many local activities and events, and has played an important role in educating the Singapore public about different religions. It also organises public exhibitions and regularly offer prayers at public and national events.

This prayer is prayed at IRO meetings.

### **Invocation**

O Lord, increase in us understanding and knowledge and set us free from the bondage of greed, hatred and ignorance, so that we may awake, arise and advance until the goal is reached, giving our bodies to work and our minds to the Lord.

May we work vigorously keeping within spiritual discipline to bring peace in our hearts. peace in our families, peace in our cities, peace in our planetary home, the world.

May we learn to master ourselves, sublimate our combative energies into creative channels, and freely offer ourselves in the service of our fellowmen, and our Lord.

Help us, O Lord, to ever strive to keep on these lines to promote peace on earth and goodwill among men.

By Thy grace, may we all prosper.



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## IRO Women of Faith Wing (WOF)



*At the Buddhist Temple*



*At an IRO function*

The IRO Women of Faith Wing (WOF), which is made up of female members of different religions, meets monthly to deepen the understanding of the different faiths of the participants and to share different aspects of their lives according to their beliefs. The core members organise an annual event to celebrate International women's Day.

The WOF, headed by Sr Maria Lau, has also an ongoing array of fun and meaningful activities each month, including the *Walking the Path of our Culture and History* series where visits are organised to places of worship.

In addition, the WOF have organised forums and symposiums on these themes:

- Women and Prayer from the different faith perspectives.
- Drawing inspiration from Religious Saints or Religious Women from different faiths.
- Against all odds – how one's faith and belief in the goodness of people gives hope in times of suffering and difficulties in life.
- Using film followed by sharing interfaith stories as a means of reflection and dialogue.
- Sharing food that has meaning to different faiths during their religious festival celebrations.

The highlight WOF event in 2019 was the International Women's Day Celebration on 2nd March 2019, where *Stories of the Impact of Women in Religions* were shared by members of the Baha'i, Christian, Muslim and Taoist faiths. Over 50 men and women of different faiths attended and enjoyed the event that included a trivia quiz.



# Infant Jesus Sisters, Singapore (founded in France, 1662, established in Singapore 1854)



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*Women of Faith Core Group*



*Group Sharing at the Asian civilisations Museum*

Read more about the happenings [on International Women's Day 2021](#) organised by the WOF CORE Group



*Sr Maria and the Archbishop with the women of faith Committee*



*Women of Faith Core Group*



*Women of Faith group members with ex-President Halimah*

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## **Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue (ACCIRD)**

This [ACCIRD](#) Council was set up to foster bonds of friendship, mutual understanding, respect and collaboration between Catholics and followers of other religious traditions through dialogue.



Some ACCIRD members with Mr Lawrence Wong



ACCIRD members with His Eminence William Cardinal Goh

The ACCIRD arm of the Catholic Church organises the annual Christmas party for the members of the Inter-Religious Organisation.





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## What is Interreligious Dialogue?

Interreligious dialogue is a meeting of people of differing religions, in an atmosphere of freedom and openness, in order to listen to the other, to try to understand that person's religion, and hopefully to seek possibilities of collaboration. It is hoped that the other partner will reciprocate, because dialogue should be marked by a two-way and not a one-way movement. Reciprocity is in the nature of dialogue. There is give and take. Dialogue implies both receptivity and active communication.

Cardinal Francis Arinze, *Meeting Other Believers* (1997), 5.

The objective of the [Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference \(FABC\)](#) is to bring a Christian dimension to all communication activities and develop 'Social Communication' within the Asian Catholic community in order to support Christian living and the service of the Gospel.

[Interfaith Resources from Toronto ... read more](#)



Women of Faith members with his Eminence William Cardinal Goh at Christmas 2023

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ACCIRD hosted the Christmas party in Dec 2023 at St Joseph's Church (Victoria St)



ACCIRD hosted the Christmas party in Dec 2019 at St Joseph's Church (Bt Timah)



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*At the Christmas celebration 2016 at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd*



*At St Teresa's Church in Dec 2015*