

# Possible Buddhist-Catholic Collaborations

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Collaborations like the one we are considering happen only with constant feeding and momentum. We have established great roots this week. Now it is time for our tree to branch out to others. To do so, I offer four Do's and one Don't based on my observations during this week of dialogue and my work in effecting change through the nonprofit sector in the United States:

## DO – Continue the Dialogue

1. Localize conversations to bring in people at the grass roots level where real change may occur.
2. Bring in youth and young adults.
  - Attract them using an interesting, interactive format.

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- Give them a real voice in the discussions; they do not like being lectured to.
3. Bring in community leaders.
    - Think beyond religious, academic, and interfaith leaders, with whom we can go only so far.
    - Involve people who occupy decision-making positions in your community.

## DO – Be Immediate

1. Do not wait for perfection; perfection is the enemy of the good.
2. Remember that there are people who need the benefits of our work NOW.
3. We will learn more about each other as we directly collaborate.

## DO – INNOVATE

1. People in need seek help from multiple social service providers.
2. After fifty years of the War on Poverty, the line for services is not any shorter.
3. Let's measure outcomes according to how many people NO LONGER need our services.

## DO – ADVOCATE

1. We are in a unique period in history, beginning with Pope Francis's visit to the United States and ending with the U.S. presidential elections.
2. We must use this opportunity to send urgent causes to the forefront of U.S. discussion.

3. We must ask: How can people inspired by these recent events put their faith into action, and how can we help them to do this?
4. We are more powerful in the state capitol and on Capitol Hill when we advocate together across faiths.

#### DON'T – Duplicate

1. Every day in the United States, the IRS authorizes more than two hundred new nonprofits; it stands to reason that some must be duplicating the work of others already in the marketplace.
2. Look for existing groups to collaborate with before starting something new.

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