

Benedict and the Jews

Dennis Coday | Jan. 26, 2010 NCR Today

Pope Benedict's visit Jan. 17 to the Great Synagogue of Rome caused quite a stir in some quarters. NCR senior correspondent John L. Allen Jr. wrote about the visit, and later tried to explain it, [Making Sense of Benedict's Jewish Policy](#) [1], and later to put it into context, [A theologian-pope sidelines theology](#) [2].

Over on Belief.net, Rabbi Brad Hirschfield, comments on Allen's analysis, [Making Sense of Benedict XVI](#) [3]. Read the full column, but here's the money quote:

... it's remarkable hubris on our part to assume that the leader of more than 1 billion Catholics is primarily concerned with us! We need to get over ourselves, don't you think? I will say this though about Allen's analysis of the Pope's thinking: anyone who thinks that they can be whoever they want to be internally, without that effecting who they are in the "outside world", is seriously kidding themselves. So while I have no concerns for example, about Catholics returning to a mass which occasionally includes a prayer for the conversion of the Jews, perhaps they should - not for our sake, but for their own.

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[1] <http://www.forward.com/articles/123888/>

[2] <http://ncronline.org/node/16735>

[3] <http://blog.beliefnet.com/windowsanddoors/2010/01/making-sense-of-benedict-xvi.html>