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## A Statement of Purpose

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## A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A BRIDGE links two shores, spans an abyss, opens a road for communication; it is thus an instrument of peace, as is this Bridge, its editors hope.

THE BRIDGE tries to show the unity of God's design as it leads from the Law to the Gospel—the unbroken economy of salvation. Never can the Church forget that the Rock on which she stands is embedded in the revealed wisdom of patriarchs and prophets and in the mighty events which dominate the history of the children of Israel. For her the past is not dead but lives on, as it ought to live in the mind of every Christian; hence the marvels of the Ancient Dispensation will be spoken of repeatedly in these pages.

THE BRIDGE speaks also of Christians and Jews of today, and speaks to them. But the peace it looks to is not merely a minimum on which Christians and Jews can agree. For were we, the editors, to seek no more than a lowest common denominator, we should be untrue to the faith dear to us and at the same time show little respect to them, in whom we see our separated brethren. We should be untrue were we to pass over in silence the one fact which separates Christians from Jews and Jews from Christians, the fact of Jesus. Yet, separated though we are, we *are* brethren, for He over whom Christians and Jews are separated turns and ties us to them: He is the Bridge.

What we wish, then, is that our work will help Christians to a deeper understanding of their treasures, and no less that it will serve the dialogue between Christians and Jews. We say a dialogue, even though one party to it speaks but indirectly, for this is a time-honored term in the Church's intellectual history, reaching as far back, for example, as Justin the Martyr. Despite all its shortcomings, Justin's *Dialogue with Trypho* is unmatched in its tenderness, for in it a Christian and a Jew, having argued their faiths, at times vehemently but always amicably, end their discussion by praying for one another. Dare we expect that what we offer here will lead to like love?

THE EDITORS