

## **Jews and Christians Throughout History**

### **Reflection Paper I**

Your reflection paper should be 5-7 double spaced typed pages. Focus on the question from the perspective of the lectures and readings. We are looking for a surface reading of the rabbinic and Christian texts. Then build your argument, clearly and convincingly.

- I. Assume that you are neither a Christian nor a Jew [a leap of imagination!]: How would you describe the initial encounter between Christians and Jews? Would you assume that they are engaged in a family quarrel or have made such a radical break from each other that it is irreconcilable?
- II. How do the documents of II Vatican Council and those of the Vatican Commission on Interreligious Relations with the Jews draw upon the Scriptures? Can you detect any shifts of emphasis within these documents from previous attitudes towards Jews and Judaism?
- III. Analyze the two alternative Christian stories offered by Professor Mary Boys. What are the strengths and weaknesses of these two versions in light of the documents of II Vatican Council and subsequent instructions from the Commission on Religious Relations with the Jews?