



Fostering Openness: Catholic-Muslim Student Encounters in Ciamis, West Java

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Keywords:</p> <p>National brotherhood; Openness; Religious communities; Socialization; Youth encounters.</p> <p>Article history:</p> <p>Received 2024-12-28 Revised 2025-03-30 Accepted 2025-04-08</p>	<p>Interfaith encounters play a vital role in fostering social harmony and mutual understanding among religious communities, especially in diverse societies. This study examines the efforts of Santo Yakobus High School in Jakarta to promote interreligious dialogue through visits to Darussalam Islamic Boarding School in Ciamis. The initiative involves Catholic and Muslim students engaging in meaningful interactions to overcome prejudice and build friendships. Recognizing the challenges posed by societal biases and misconceptions, the study highlights the importance of cultivating an attitude of openness as a foundational element for successful encounters. Using qualitative methods and an anthropological approach, the research identifies four key stages in the process of internalizing openness among Santo Yakobus students. These stages enable participants to develop insights, foster social connections, and establish interfaith friendships, offering a model for promoting peaceful coexistence and deeper understanding between religious communities.</p> <p>Contribution: The concept of openness is presented as essential for facilitating meaningful interactions. This framework not only addresses existing prejudices but also promotes a culture of understanding and respect between diverse religious communities.</p>

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1. INTRODUCTION

Encounters between religious communities are a positive alternative in the process of building a peaceful life in Indonesia (Baidhaw, 2013; T. Rahman, 2013; Setia & Rahman, 2022). Encounters are interpreted as a means for self-transformation because they bring changes in paradigms of thinking, understanding, feelings and attitudes to life (Khairiza & Ritonga, 2023). Encounters are considered to be an important process in realizing a peaceful life (Ejiowhor, 2025; Selçuk, 2018). Encounters can be realized when based on an attitude of openness. An attitude of openness to accept other people to meet and exchange ideas (Magen-Nagar & Shonfeld, 2018). An open attitude leads to a positive response to other people's thoughts. So, the process of internalizing an attitude of openness in meetings is very necessary (Kelman, 2017).

This research reveals the encounters carried out by the Santo Yakobus High School in Jakarta, which visited the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School in Ciamis. This encounter was based on curiosity about life

in an Islamic boarding school and getting to know more about religious and cultural diversity. This visit was initiated by the Principal and teachers of Santo Yakobus High School, Jakarta, visiting and asking permission from the leadership of the Darussalam Ciamis Islamic Boarding School. The warm welcome from the Islamic Boarding School impressed and amazed the Principal and teachers of Santo Yakobus High School. Starting from the time of arrival, the meal, and discussions until leaving, both the leaders and ustadz at the Islamic boarding school were very friendly and made them feel comfortable. This made the teachers confident and, at the same time, dispelled prejudices about Islamic boarding schools, which tend to be closed (Interview with Eko P., the Principal of Saint James High School, 2024). Through meetings held by Santo Yakobus High School at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School in Ciamis, a collaboration of religious encounters called "*Dulur Sabangsa*" (Fellow Countrymen) was formed. This activity is a meeting between Catholics from the students of Saint James High School of Jakarta students and Muslims, namely students from the Darussalam Ciamis Islamic Boarding School. This meeting is based on brotherhood across the Indonesian nation to learn about each other's culture, get to know characters and open up to build friendships in a diverse environment.

The meeting held by St. The meeting between the two great figures was closed by embracing each other, this gave the impression of deep brotherhood and also inspired Catholics to follow in the Pope's footsteps. Meetings are an important point in the process of realizing peace. This research wants to dig deeper into the meeting process carried out by the students of Santo Yakobus High School at the Darussalam Ciamis Islamic Boarding School and analyze the internalization of an attitude of openness in the meeting process carried out. This is to see to what extent meeting activities can provide insight to Santo Yakobus High School students as well as deepen attitudes of openness in diverse life.

This research is also based on previous research, such as that conducted by Titin, who focused on the dialogue process and the role of religious figures in realizing peace. Dialogue can be realized if there is a model for dialogue, namely religious figures. So, the call for peace was not initiated by religious communities but rather by religious figures. In this research, dialogue is built to resolve conflicts between religious communities. So, various tools are needed to be involved in the dialogue process between religious communities (Malau, 2024).

The concept of dialogue in the lives of religious communities in a plural society also has positive implications. This research was conducted by Marthinus et al who researched the dialogue process in Fak Fak Regency. This research looks at how dialogue is built by communities consisting of Catholics, Muslims, Protestants, Buddhists, Hindus and Confucians. The result is communication that is built in the form of harmonization and tolerance between religious communities. Dialogue is not only understood as formal two-way communication in a particular room; it is also applied in everyday life, such as greetings, community service and social activities (Ngabalin et al., 2024). And when we look at the research conducted by Gideon to see the role of the Bible and the Actualization of Peace Between Peoples in Indonesia in the Esoteric Dialogue Paradigm. The result is that dialogue is built not only because of the conflict that occurs. Rather, dialogue is built on the basis of awareness and Biblical teachings to always maintain peace with fellow human beings. The teaching of dialogue must be Common Values for someone to maximize their potential as a human (Sitorus, 2023).

Looking at the three studies above, this research both discusses dialogue between religious communities, this research also discusses dialogue between religious communities because it involves Catholics and Muslims. However, the focus of this research is not only the dialogue that is built, but before the dialogue process begins, a meeting is needed to unite oneself, perceptions and determine attitudes. This research involves the interaction of Santo Yakobus High School students with Darussalam Islamic Boarding School students, including those involved, namely teachers and Islamic boarding school administrators. This research also focuses on the internalization of openness attitudes from both SMA Santo Yakobus Jakarta and Pondok Pesantren Darussalam Ciamis. So the research focuses on the internalization of an attitude of openness as a basis in the process of encounters between religious communities.

2. METHOD

Studying the internalization of an attitude of openness in encounters at Santo Yakobus High School at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School in Ciamis, the author uses a qualitative method approach and an anthropological approach. This method was chosen because it is suitable to look more deeply into the reality that occurs, then anthropology explains how to understand humans and culture holistically (Harahap & Kahpi,

2021). The encounters between Catholics and Muslims are part of a religious expression that is reflected in the sacred verses that are lived. So, this methodology and approach are appropriate to this study.

The data sources in this study used in-depth interview techniques, observation and documentation (Huda, 2016). Interviews were conducted with Santo Yakobus High School Sisters, Principal of Santo Yakobus High School Jakarta, Santo Yakobus High School Teachers who were involved in the event, Grade 3 students of Santo Yakobus High School, Parents of Grade 3 students of Santo Yakobus High School, Leaders of the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School Ciamis, Santri Darussalam Islamic Boarding School Ciamis. Informants were selected according to their involvement in the meeting activities carried out.

Observations were carried out in two places, namely Santo Yakobus High School, to see the preparations made before the meeting activities were carried out. Then the second observation was carried out at the Darussalam Ciamis Islamic Boarding School as a place for meeting activities. Observations were carried out starting from October 5, 2024, to October 29, 2024.

Documentation is carried out as an additional data source to strengthen the main data in the form of photos. Taking photos is in accordance with procedures and permits from the school and Islamic boarding schools. So that all sources are guaranteed to be original, copyrighted, and have been sorted according to research needs (Rosidah, 2011).

The resulting data was then analyzed using Miles and Huberman's theory, namely interactive data analysis (Miles & Huberman, 2013; M. T. Rahman, 2025). In this process there are three stages, namely, first, reducing the data obtained to select and sort data that has differences and similarities. Second, the presentation of data is the result of analysis of the data obtained and has been grouped and analyzed by strengthening theory. Third, verification, namely proof of the study carried out, so that the significance and benefits of the research are produced (Mahyudi, 2023).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Meeting Full of Blessings

Encounters between religious communities are a fact of plurality in Indonesian society (Usman, 2023). Encounters play an important role in the lives of people with diverse religions and cultures. encounter leads a person to an attitude of acceptance of the reality of plurality (Sitorus, 2023). The peaceful life in religion that the Indonesian people dream of is not possible if it is just a slogan. The desire, determination and practice must be in concrete steps.(Adnan, 2020) So encounter is a real action to build a peaceful life, especially in religious diversity.

The call for mutual tolerance for society is still a false way to achieve a peaceful life. Tolerance is understood as respect for the lives of each religious community (Santiawan & Warta, 2021). If so, the barrier between one another is still very pronounced and cannot be considered peaceful. Peace also holds the meaning of harmonization, so how do differences in beliefs then lead someone to an attitude of accepting the reality of religious beliefs, which then does not isolate someone from interacting with one another? Harmonization brings a sense of wanting to learn from each other in social, cultural and worldview areas (Loho & Wagiu, 2022).

Meetings between religious communities are also carried out on the basis of the teachings of holy books and the practices of religious leaders (Sitorus, 2023). This then became one of the backgrounds for the activities carried out by Santo Yakobus High School visiting the Darussalam Ciamis Islamic Boarding School. The meeting held by Pope Francis with religious figures, one of whom was Prof. Dr. Nasarudin Umar, Grand Imam of the Istiqlal Mosque, brought a new nuance to brotherhood between religious communities in Indonesia. A touching and peaceful scene can be seen from the interactions between the two great figures from the Islamic and Catholic religions. Both of them provide real action about brotherhood between brothers and sisters. Encounters do not eliminate faith, on the contrary, encounters nourish faith. The Principal of Santo Yakobus School wants to follow an example by visiting the 3rd-grade students of Santo Yakobus High School as a provision to get to know diversity and be open to making friends with other religions (Interview with Eko P., the Principal of Saint James High School, 2024).

Apart from that, the Abu Dhabi Humanitarian document signed by Pope Francis together with the Grand Imam of AL-Azhar, Sheih Ahmed el-Tayeb also emphasized that "Faith in Allah unites and does not divide. "Faith brings us closer together, despite all our differences, and distances us from enmity and hatred" (Bapa Suci Paus Fransiskus, A Imam Besar, 2013). Building brotherhood is part of the Catholic faith, so the

encounter is a manifestation of faith. Humans who believe make encounters to improve their quality towards God and establish brotherhood with all humans (Ndururu & Siboro, 2023).

Documentation of Pope Francis' Meeting



Figure 1. Pope Francis' meeting with the Grand Imam of the Istiqlal Mosque (Detik.Com, 8 September 2024)

The meeting held by Santo Yakobus High School was part of the Final Assignment for grade 3 students who will soon graduate. It is hoped that this activity will provide a deep impression for children about learning to recognize religious diversity. However, during the event, protests from parents regarding this activity arose and gave rise to many assumptions. Some assumptions that arise among parents are: Islamization, the imaginining of Islamic Boarding Schools, and the activities carried out.

a. *Islamization*

This assumption emerged because this activity was different from the agenda usually carried out by schools, namely visits to seminaries (dormitories for the education of prospective priests). Visiting Islamic boarding schools is something new and considered strange. Why do schools that are almost entirely Catholic visit Islamic boarding schools? Are there certain intentions and other goals with this agenda? Will my child be Islamized? (Interview with Eko P., the Principal of Saint James High School, 2024). Islamic boarding schools are centers of learning for Muslims, so assumptions about Islamization emerge among parents (Interview with Putri B., a parent of St. James High School, Jakarta, 2024). This assumption is one of the biggest reasons and obstacles in the process of implementing activities. Parents feel that their children's faith is threatened and are worried that their children will change religions. Some parents even complained about the visit agenda at the Islamic boarding school. So the school then held a meeting with parents and students to explain the activities that would be carried out at the Islamic boarding school.

The parent and student meeting was held on October 5 2024, this activity began with a greeting from the school principal explaining his and teacher representatives' visit to the Darussalam Ciamis Islamic Boarding School. Mr. Eko explained the environment of the Darussalam Ciamis Islamic Boarding School and how warmly the Islamic boarding school leadership welcomed him and the teachers with a banquet. Islamic boarding school's false and vague image for parents is answered in the principal's explanation through the photos displayed (Interview with Eko P., the Principal of Saint James High School, 2024). The meeting with parents and students was also accompanied by a collaborative performance of Angklung Silih Asih, which is a Catholic music group, with Gamelan Ki Panamanarasa, which is a Muslim music group. This collaboration invites parents and students to enjoy music together with joy. Apart from that, people and students were introduced to traditional Sundanese games as cultural heritage. This performance aims to answer the assumption that meeting activities are cultural introduction activities, not for Islamization.

The school provides new insights for parents about the process of encounters between religious communities (Interview with Budi P., an organizer of the meeting activity at Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, 2024). Parents who initially doubted visiting activities at the Islamic boarding school became curious and wanted to take part in these activities. The children were enthusiastic and couldn't wait to visit the Islamic boarding school and play with Muslim friends. Likewise, Sister Winanda Haka, administrator of the Santo James Foundation for Spiritual Affairs, added that this meeting activity was part of the learning of Love for Christians (Interview with Winanda, a Catholic Spiritual Figure, Jakarta, 2024). Why is that? Jesus' love is

to spread love to all mankind and build love with others, regardless of religious or ethnic background, while upholding human values. So, the inter-religious meeting activities carried out by Santo Yakobus High School (Saint James High School) are part of fostering the teachings of Jesus' Love. So the claim of Islamization is not true because encounters between religious communities are part of the teachings exemplified by the Pope and also Biblical values (Interview with Winanda, a Catholic Spiritual Figure, Jakarta, 2024).

b. Imaginining of Islamic Boarding Schools

In the view of parents, Islamic boarding schools are centers of Muslim education (Sirait et al., 2024). It is certainly full of distinctive and strong Islamic teachings and nuances. Not only parents, but the children of Santo Yakobus High School also have limitations in imagining Islamic boarding schools (Interview with Budi P., an organizer of the meeting activity at Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, 2024). So before the visit is carried out, the children are invited by the teacher to look for information about the Islamic boarding school, starting from the background, place, environmental features, values taught and how the culture is used in the Islamic boarding school. For parents, the school provides a special session to see the Islamic boarding school environment through pictures and videos.

Of course, through pictures, videos and narratives, the pesantren's imagination is not yet fully intact. However, for educational institutions, this is a good provision for children to take the first steps before meeting activities are carried out (Interview with Budi P., an organizer of the meeting activity at Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, 2024). Children's initial impression of Islamic boarding schools is that they are a place of learning like school; only there is in-depth study of Islamic knowledge, and they have to stay put. And for parents, Islamic boarding schools are a new environment for children to learn to be independent, like santri who can live far from their parents and learn to manage themselves (Interview with Eko P., the Principal of Saint James High School, 2024). The description of the Islamic boarding school captured by parents and students was also used as one of the objectives of the meeting activity. So it is important to provide harmony of understanding and provisions in the meeting process. This makes this activity have a clear direction. Of course, the right imagination for parents and students is the starting point for openness and a desire to learn.

c. Activities Carried Out

The issue of Islamization that is spreading among parents has raised doubts about the concept of visiting activities. Parents' fears include that their children will be taught Islam while at the Islamic boarding school. Children will experience doubts about their beliefs. Children will be invited to convert to Islam. Of course, there are many more suspicions that arise regarding the visit activities carried out (Interview with Putri B., a parent of St. James High School, Jakarta, 2024). The parents' meeting also emphasized that there was no event agenda that deviated from school values. The visit was carried out to get to know the environment and culture of the Islamic boarding school. Children learn to see how the dormitories where students live, manage money, manage study time in Islamic boarding schools and schools, and balance school and Islamic boarding school activities. Of course, children learn to socialize with new Muslim friends (Interview with Eko P., the Principal of Saint James High School, 2024).

Each agenda is directed at equipping children to gain insight into living in the diversity that exists in Indonesia (Interview with Budi P., an organizer of the meeting activity at Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, 2024). Visiting activities are small portraits; students are able to open themselves up and learn to find friends with different beliefs, different cultures, and different nationalities. Having friends with a variety of diversity will provide new insights and resilience for living together. Encounters are one way to challenge ourselves to be open about something (Bapa Suci Paus Fransiskus, A Imam Besar, 2013). The Islamic boarding school visit activity also introduced Santo Yakobus High School students to Sundanese culture through traditional Sundanese games. Children are invited to play together accompanied by gamelan and angklung. What's interesting is that the Gamelan players are Muslim and the Angklung players are Catholic. The two of them collaborate through the culture of musical arts, uniting tones and producing a unifying tonal harmony.

The collaboration displayed by the Gamelan and Angklung groups is a real form of encounter that produces brotherhood. Openness to learn from each other and unite notes, not being selfish and complementing each other to create beautiful rhythms. Sister Winanda emphasized: "This is what we (the school) want, to teach children theory at school and practice in the field, so I invite parents to support this

activity. I feel this is extraordinary harmony, through encounters, children can learn to be open and able to recognize diversity" (Interview with Winanda, a Catholic Spiritual Figure, Jakarta, 2024).

An Open Attitude opens the Door of Meeting

Cultivating an attitude of openness is undoubtedly challenging, yet it is a vital step toward personal growth and meaningful engagement. Embracing openness does not diminish one's individuality; rather, it serves as a gateway to broaden perspectives and acquire new knowledge. Conversely, a closed attitude restricts intellectual development by fostering self-centeredness and limiting exposure to diverse ideas. Therefore, adopting openness becomes an essential prerequisite in the process of interfaith encounters. The initiative undertaken by Santo Yakobus High School exemplifies this principle by encouraging students to approach interreligious meetings with a readiness to learn and explore. While the outcomes of such encounters may vary, these interactions serve as the foundational stage for fostering understanding, mutual respect, and social harmony among participants.

The meeting (Bapa Suci Paus Fransiskus, A Imam Besar, 2013) was chosen by the Santo James High School as a means of weaving ties of brotherhood between religious communities. To want to take part in the meeting activities, the Principal of Santo Yakobus High School invited parents and children to instill an open attitude through the introduction of Islamic boarding schools, introducing traditional Sundanese games and collaborative performances of *angkung Silih Asih* from the Catholic community with *Gamelan Ki Pemanah Rasa* from the Islamic community.

An attitude of openness is part of a person's ability to accept differences, listen without prejudice and consider opinions, ideas or information with reasoning that is free from closed tendencies (Awear & Rukiyanto, 2023; Truna & Zakaria, 2021). An attitude of openness is the fruit of correct and wise basic knowledge. In relations between religious communities, an attitude of openness is part of the obligation that must be had (Loho & Wagiu, 2022). Because differences in beliefs certainly have incongruities, but what unites them are the same human values (Khairiza & Ritonga, 2023). An attitude of openness teaches someone to open themselves to accepting other people out of appreciation for humanity (Engkizar et al., 2022). In the school environment, Santo Yakobus High School realizes that children are used to living with each other but have not yet learned to recognize a heterogeneous environment outside of Catholicism (Interview with Budi P., an organizer of the meeting activity at Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, 2024). So visits to Islamic boarding schools are part of learning for children to foster an open attitude..

A visit to an Islamic boarding school is the first experience for the students of Santo Yakobus High School. Seeing students doing activities in the Islamic boarding school environment and then participating in welcoming the arrival of Santo Yakobus High School students made the children impressed and enthusiastic. Keyyisa saw that her friends at the Darussalam Ciamis Islamic Boarding School were very friendly and open to accepting her arrival, and there was no discrimination even though they were not veiled like them (Interview with Putri A., a student of St. James High School, Jakarta, 2024). The students of Santo Yakobus High School are dynamic with students in the Darussalam Ciamis School and Islamic Boarding School area. The students from Santo Yakobus High School were formed into 10 groups and guided by the board of students at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School in Ciamis to get to know the environment of the Islamic boarding school, school and extracurricular places. The students from Santo Yakobus High School also attend the so-called *santri residence Burning* (where the students live) to see the daily lives of the students.

The children enthusiastically communicated with each other, toured the Islamic boarding school environment and even practiced together to perform artistic creations. This collaboration is also part of the meeting agenda to increase feelings of brotherhood and dialogue between religious communities. Children from Santo Yakobus High School and Darussalam Islamic Boarding School students met for the first time on this agenda. However, the togetherness and joy expressed is a natural feeling as humans to accept each other and learn from each other. The attitude of openness (Sitorus, 2023) is manifested in the integration of Santo Yakobus High School students and Darussalam Islamic Boarding School students in meetings. Each of them did not hesitate to joke together, did not look down on other friends who wore religious symbols such as headscarves, played together and participated in art performances without prejudice. The form of collaboration displayed through works of art is also part of the depiction of an open attitude.

The encounter led the students of Santo Yakobus High School and Darussalam Islamic Boarding School students to internalize an attitude of openness within themselves. Not only that, Sister, as the spiritual

figure of Santo James High School, felt this extraordinary experience when she saw the children playing together with the students and also when communicating with the Islamic boarding school. Sister expressed her feelings of joy during her closing remarks (Interview with Winanda, a Catholic Spiritual Figure, Jakarta, 2024).

An attitude of openness (Sitorus, 2023) brings harmonization in encounters, opens up opportunities for deeper learning from each other because it does not start from prejudice but rather curiosity to see each other's lives (Santiawan & Warta, 2021). Raisya, one of the students from the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, expressed her joy at the presence of her friends from Santo Yakobus High School, her admiration for being able to interact with Catholic friends who are open and always appreciative of what we do, our small example is helping them to fetch water and tidy up the slippers when entering the hall. She also said:

For us, it's just normal, especially since it's part of the picket and daily tasks, but our friends from Santo Yakobus High School always say thank you for tidying it up. And I also met a new friend whose name is Bianca, she is beautiful and I gave her a souvenir headscarf, she said she liked it and it was comfortable, even though this was her first experience but she was really happy, we also exchanged Instagram and WA numbers, I can't wait to contact her during the Pondok holiday (Interview with Raisya, a Student of Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, 2024).

The experience felt by the students of Santo Yakobus High School regarding the impression of a pleasant meeting. This also cannot be separated from the role of Islamic Boarding Schools which provide free space for Santo Yakobus High School students and Santri to interact and socialize freely. The values of moderation (Amtiran & Kriswibowo, 2024) which are instilled in the Islamic boarding school environment also support students to accept and be open to the presence of their friends at Santo Yakobus High School.

If we look deeper, an attitude of openness has previously been exemplified by the Sister, Principal, and Teachers of Santo Yakobus High School with the Leaders, Ustadz, and Islamic Boarding School Administrators. The big role of spiritual leaders and administrators is one of the driving forces and can be seen by students and santri (Amtiran & Kriswibowo, 2024). They apply what is exemplified by respected figures so that the effective role of the leader also becomes a determinant in the process of internalizing an attitude of openness in meetings (Malau, 2024).

Meeting is Faith

The meetings held by Santo James High School are part of fulfilling the values in Catholic teachings, namely spreading Love for Others (Bapa Suci Paus Fransiskus, A Imam Besar, 2013). The real application has been exemplified by the great leader of the Catholic community, namely Pope Francis, through a fraternal visit to Indonesia. (Bapa Suci Paus Fransiskus, A Imam Besar, 2013) Harmonization of love for all mankind is by meeting. Differences are a reality, but respecting differences is to build a life of brotherhood and make Indonesia a Common Home (Otor, 2021).

The encounters held by the students of Santo Yakobus High School are part of living out their faith in God who created humans with their diversity. Meeting someone with a different faith does not mean you lose your faith. On the contrary, it increases faith and gratitude for the diversity that exists because it becomes a way to see the breadth of God's Love. This is what Gabriel said, he saw the beauty of brotherhood and friendship in Islamic boarding schools. This memorable experience made Gabriel more confident in his faith and enthusiastic about spreading love as exemplified by Pope Francis (Interview with Gabriel, a Student of Saint James High School, Jakarta, 2024).

Sister Winanda also added that it was not only the children who learned about brotherhood, but I personally was really happy and touched by the polite and open attitude of the Islamic boarding school who accepted it sincerely and with joy. This encounter is part of the most beautiful memories in his life and will be shared with every Catholic faithful to always spread love to others (Interview with Winanda, a Catholic Spiritual Figure, Jakarta, 2024).

Mrs. Linda, as one of the teachers at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, has the same views as Sister Winanda; this encounter taught her to always be a good human being. Sincerely accepting differences, even when hugging Sister for the first time, Linda's mother felt extraordinary warmth and joy. How God created diversity to find friends to make this life enjoyable. The feeling of gratitude for being able to take part

in this meeting activity made Mrs. Linda more confident in the Power of God (Interview with Linda B., a teacher at Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, 2024).

The experience of encounters experienced by several informants is proof that meeting and socializing between religious communities is aware of God's power in creating diversity on earth so that humans can learn from each other (Ndururu & Siboro, 2023). In the Catholic Religion, encounter is a teaching of the Faith, for the Islamic Religion, establishing friendship is part of the Faith. So encounter is part of the process of perfecting the faith for both Catholics and Muslims.

The mirror of faith is when the values of faith are applied in everyday life attitudes (Ndururu & Siboro, 2023). Meeting various kinds of diversity and having to determine attitudes toward the goal of togetherness is certainly a challenge. So meeting activities are the right tool to be used as an approach in efforts to build togetherness. Open yourself to different environments to be able to learn from each other.

The encounter between Santo Yakobus High School students and students at the Darussalam Ciamis Islamic Boarding School opened up opportunities to learn from each other and appreciate their differences in beliefs (Loho & Wagiu, 2022). Every religion teaches kindness and respect for fellow humans. The beliefs held by each human being are part of life choices which provide consequences in actions and attitudes (Ngabalin et al., 2024). Encounters, which are one of the teachings of Catholics, have consequences for their followers to always try and develop relationships with various religions. The aim is to hone humanitarian attitudes and respect for the lives of other people (Sitorus, 2023).

In Islam, meetings are also mentioned Friendship is an activity to connect social relations and communicate with anyone (Rosen, 1984; Silverstein, 2008). In terms of value, Friendship has a high reward value because this activity contains an attitude of openness, appreciation, and a form of respect for other relatives (Usman, 2023). So, meetings are part of the activity of Friendship, which involves a meeting between one person and another person. Thus, encounter is part of an important teaching in both the Catholic and Muslim faiths.

4. CONCLUSION

The process of internalizing an attitude of openness in meetings carried out by Santo Yakobus High School students in Jakarta at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School in Ciamis goes through several stages: First, Socialization to parents and students is important within the scope of educational institutions to provide insight to parents about the activities carried out. Second, The attitude of openness exemplified by the Spiritual Figure represented by Sister Winanda and direct support from the school is one of the supports for children being able to open themselves up to the adults around them. Third, The moderate style of the Darussalam Ciamis Islamic Boarding School provides an open space for Santo Yakobus High School students to interact with the students, while also warmly welcoming visits, making the school and children comfortable and easy to explore the values at the Islamic Boarding School. Fourth, The example of participating in activities carried out by Sister Winanda, the Principal, and the Teachers at Santo Yakobus High School made the children more expressive and active. They are given assistance to take the children to understand the Islamic boarding school environment and interact with the students. These four stages make the meeting at Santo Yakobus High School at the Islamic Boarding School meaningful and get positive feedback, as stated by the students of Santo Yakobus High School.

Santo Yakobus High School's courage to enter and study in a boarding school environment, which, of course, has a different culture, has its challenges. However, opening up to enter and study makes the students of Santo Yakobus High School see the world in a different environment, one of which is the Islamic Boarding School as a center for Islamic education, which is impressive. Making friends in a new environment is one measure of success in this activity. So the process of internalizing an attitude of openness in the meeting process becomes important to equip oneself. Encounters make someone lose their faith but instead increase their confidence in their faith by seeing diversity as a gift from God.

In future research, it is hoped that we can dig deeper into the exploration of values in the encounters carried out. So that the study of encounters is more comprehensive and in-depth. Remembering that in the process of inter-religious harmony, it is important to look at various aspects both from sacred texts, culture and social context. This research is an illustration of the process of meeting activities; it requires internalization of an attitude of openness that must be provided. This makes it easier to open up to get to know each other. So that meetings can be used as a means of building strong and harmonious social relationships.

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