

## Monthly Highlights

April 2012

### *International Interreligious Affairs*

#### Kiev, April 25/26

My principle international travel during April was to Kiev to participate in the international Interfaith Forum - the brainchild of Jewish communal leader and Ukrainian parliamentarian Oleksander Feldman who is especially close to the leadership of the Orthodox Ukrainian Church.

The forum is co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Parliament, the Ukrainian Jewish Committee, and the Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia.

While it had not been possible for me to attend the first gathering held last year, I was able to attend this year's conference on the theme "Winds of Change: Religions' Role in Today's World".

The two days' proceedings were opened with greetings from the national Church and state authorities.



I was honored to share the first plenary session with Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem and others sharing the platform included Rashad Aliyarly of Azerbaijan (Muslim Administration of the Caucasus) the Donied Lama, and Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky of the Orthodox Church USA (and Moderator of the World Conference of Religions for Peace.)



Dublin April 29

On my way to the US for the AJC Global Forum, I stopped over in Ireland to address the seventieth anniversary of The Pillar of Fire association – one of the first ever initiatives of Jewish-Christian friendship, led by the late Frank Duff. My address on the state of Catholic-Jewish relations took place at the residence of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Mansion House, in the presence of the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Diarmuid Martin who was the respondent.



addressing the Pillar of Fire seventieth anniversary event



the Archbishop of Dublin  
Dr. Diarmuid Martin