

Monthly Highlights

January 2012

International Interreligious Affairs

Davos, Switzerland

The only international event that I participated in during the month of January was the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos (see <http://www.weforum.org/events>), which I was invited to attend and speak at as part of the “Faith leaders community” (the World Economic Forum’s structure consists of various “communities” representing different sectors of economic and civil society.)

I participated in a few panels, both public and private on the subject of Values for society especially in the wake of the financial crisis. These included a panel on The Changing Role of Religion in Society, with Cardinal Turkson of the Vatican, Professor Niall Ferguson of Harvard, Carl Anderson of the Knights of Columbus and Shadi Hamid of the Brookings Institute in Doha.



In discussion with Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Israel

Nevertheless, there were many important meetings in Jerusalem during the month and I addressed a wide variety of groups including Project Interchange missions;

a New York interfaith leadership mission led by Rabbi Amiel Hirsch; student missions from Auburn seminary and from Hamline University; a gathering of some fifty pastors from Germany who were visiting Israel under the auspices of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Wansee conference; and Cardinal designate Timothy Dolan of New York invited me to meet with him and fifty priests from his archdiocese on pilgrimage in the Holy Land, to address them on the state of Catholic-Jewish relations with particular reference to Israel.



Cardinal designate Timothy Dolan at the Kotel