



## Monthly Highlights

March/April 2014

### *International Interreligious Affairs*

#### **Rome, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

I was honored to be invited to be the Jewish speaker at the multi-faith event held by the Catholic Focolare movement in memory of its founder Chiara Lubich. This took place in the main auditorium of the Urbana University in Rome and was the culmination of a three day interfaith seminar held at the movement's (conference) center in Castelgondolfo. See:-

<http://cnsblog.wordpress.com/2014/03/21/remembering-chiara-lubich-forging-family-ties/>

#### **Dublin, March 31- April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The eighth meeting of the Anglican-Jewish bilateral commission under the auspices of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, was held from March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Dublin. While the colloquia of the bilateral commission are usually held on alternating years in Lambeth Palace and in Jerusalem; as the Anglican co-chairman is Archbishop Jackson of Dublin, he extended the invitation to hold the latest meeting in the Irish capital and the Jewish community of Ireland co-hosted the event together with the local Church. The subject of the colloquium was Memory, Community and Identity, and I was honored (in particular as the fourth Chief Rabbi of Ireland) to give the Jewish keynote presentation (see my website –

[http://www.rabbidavidrosen.net/Memory\\_Community\\_and\\_Identity\\_Anglican-Jewish\\_Commission\\_Dublin\\_March2014.pdf](http://www.rabbidavidrosen.net/Memory_Community_and_Identity_Anglican-Jewish_Commission_Dublin_March2014.pdf))

See: <http://ireland.anglican.org/news/5052>

The meeting was given a very high profile and included an official reception by the President of Ireland at his residence in Phoenix Park.



## **Rome April 25-28**

I was privileged to have been invited by the Vatican to attend the canonizations of Pope John XXIII and John Paul II which took place on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> together with some nine other representatives of the Jewish people from Israel, the USA , Poland and the local Jewish community ; and a similar number from Argentina.



See press and video:-

<http://www.ipost.com/International/Israeli-Diaspora-delegates-attend-Vatican-ceremony-for-papal-saints-350605>

<http://vaticaninsider.lastampa.it/en/world-news/detail/articolo/ebrei-jewish-judeos-33741/>

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/pbjmyphqu6fcft7/20140427\\_093427.mp4](https://www.dropbox.com/s/pbjmyphqu6fcft7/20140427_093427.mp4)

In addition to the AJC statement on the canonizations (see

[http://www.ajc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=7oJILSPwFfJSG&b=8478375&ct=13864619&no\\_toc=1](http://www.ajc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=7oJILSPwFfJSG&b=8478375&ct=13864619&no_toc=1)

<http://www.sdjewishworld.com/2014/04/23/2-popes-built-trust-jews-named-saints/> )

Both in Rome and beforehand in Jerusalem, I was interviewed extensively by the media on the significance of these two personalities for Catholic-Jewish relations . See:-

<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/video?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=10093778#.U1sFZ8Tvj8w.email>,

<http://www.thebostonpilot.com/article.asp?ID=171135> , and Australian national broadcasting ABC, on John Paul II, on radio [“The Last Prisoner of the Vatican”](#), and TV [“All The World’s a Stage”](#)

Many of the Jewish delegation had arrived in Rome on the Friday and the chief rabbi of Rome, Rabbi Di Segni, hosted us on Shabbat.

On the day after the canonizations, the Catholic community of Sant Egidio held a conference on John XXIII and John Paul II and their significance for the Catholic-Jewish relationship. Presentations were made inter alia by Cardinal Koch, Cardinal Kasper, Professor Andrea Riccardi ( founder of the community of Sant Egidio) and by Rabbi Di Segni, Rabbi Abraham Skorka (of Argentina) and myself.