

Monthly Highlights

May 2012

International Interreligious Affairs

US – May 1-9

On my way to the AJC Global Forum I participated in the Fetzer Advisory Committee meeting on Religions and Spiritualities.

While in DC for the Global Forum and ACCESS weekend, I held a number of meetings with religious leaders, functionaries and activists.

On May 8th the Catholic movement, the Neocatechumenal Way held its concert entitled Suffering of the Innocents (written by the founder of the movement Kiko Arguello and performed by an



orchestra and choir (including members from the movements members) at the Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center in New York. Having spoken at their first performances of this concert in Domus Galilaeae in northern Israel and then in Jerusalem, I was asked to introduce



the concert and speak at this performance in New York.

AJC lent its name in sponsorship of this concert which paid tribute to the victims of the Shoah and

sought to deepen and strengthen relations between Catholics and Jews.



Rabbi David Rosen, Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, Kiko Arguello. Lincoln Center, May 8th, 2012

See: <http://www.zenit.org/article-34775?l=english>

While in New York I also had meetings with Jewish and Catholic leaders including Cardinal Timothy Dolan who had kindly invited me to stay with him at the Archbishop's residence.

Romania, May 28-31

AJC co-sponsored the third Israeli Jewish-Romanian Orthodox dialogue together with the Jewish community of Romania and the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchate, supported by the Israeli Embassy.

In particular Patriarch Daniel has provided active leadership in these meetings to highlight and advance the close relationship between Christians and Jews in Romania and relations between Romania and Israel.

The theme of this meeting was "Diaspora and Homeland" in which the Church sought to learn from the lessons of Jewish experience of maintaining religious vitality in the Diaspora as well as the



reinvigoration of the ancestral homeland. It was my privilege to address the gathering on the subject at the first session.

In addition to the conference deliberations, the delegations were received by the President of Romania in the Presidential Palace;



and also by the President of the Romanian Parliament, in her chambers at the Parliament building.

Jerusalem

Cardinal Kurt Koch , the head of the Vatican office for Relations with Jewry, paid his second official visit in this capacity to Israel, accompanied by Secretary for Catholic-Jewish relations, Father Norbert Hofmann.



Cardinal Koch confers with Rabbi Rosen prior to his address

In addition to my private meetings with them, AJC co-sponsored a public event held at the Teddy Kollek hall of the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies at which the Cardinal reiterated the unique relationship of the Church with the Jewish people and the former's commitment to the well-being of Jewry and the State of Israel . He also rearticulated the complete incompatibility of anti-Semitic attitudes with authentic Christian faith.

Another meeting of note took place with the PA Minister of Religious Affairs Dr. Mahmoud Habbash,



Mr Oded Wiener, Rabbi David Rosen,
Minister Dr. Mahmoud Habbash

together with the Director General of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel Mr. Oded Wiener, and Alain Michel of Hommes de Parole, to plan the next (fourth) meeting of Imams and Rabbis for Peace to be made up this time entirely by Israeli and Palestinian religious figures.