



## Monthly Highlights

February-April 2016

*International Interreligious Affairs*

### **Feb.25<sup>th</sup> - Rome**

The Pontifical Council for the Holy See's charitable works, Cor Unum, held a special conference in the Synod of Bishops hall in the Vatican on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the promulgation of the encyclical Deus Caritas Est by Pope Benedict XVI. For the first time non-Christian perspectives were included in a Vatican conference on a Papal encyclical.

I was honored to be invited to be the Jewish contributor on the subject of "the Jewish perspective on Biblical Love" and the Muslim presentation was given by Professor Saeed Ahmed Khan, of Wayne State University, Detroit, U.S.A.



See:

[http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/02/23/theological\\_pastoral\\_perspectives\\_deus\\_caritas\\_est/1210691](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/02/23/theological_pastoral_perspectives_deus_caritas_est/1210691) and

<http://www.lastampa.it/2016/03/04/vaticaninsider/ita/documenti/contributi-ebraici-e-islamici-al-congresso-vaticano-cor-unum-cebra-i-anni-della-deus-caritas-est-pa66dnYGqwWyciAMtAN8jL/pagina.html>

## **March 10<sup>th</sup> - Jerusalem**

The Salesian Pontifical University held a special conference entitled “MERCY WITHOUT BOUNDARIES” in celebration of the Pontifical Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Opened by Rev Dr Biju Michael SDB, the President of STS, the conference speakers were Bishop William H. Shomali of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem; Khadi Iyad Zahalka (Judge and the head of Sharia courts in Jerusalem); Rev. Fr Francesco Voltaggio (Professor at the Neo-Catechumenate Redemptoris Mater Seminary, Domus Galilea); and myself.

A report on the event may be accessed at the institute’s website [www.jerusalem.unisal.it](http://www.jerusalem.unisal.it)

See also The Times of Israel: <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/mercy-without-boundaries/>



**March 13-17 - African Muslim leaders in Israel**

AJC's department of international interreligious affairs together with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs brought a delegation to Israel of major African Muslim leaders from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Zambia.

In the photograph below, the group is pictured at a meeting with the Council of Heads of Religions in Israel hosted by Sheikh Muwafak Tarif, head of the Druze community.



See the AJC release: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ajc-hosts-african-muslim-leaders-in-israel-300235180.html>

**March 29<sup>th</sup> - United Nations , New York**

In advance of the World Humanitarian Summit being convened by the UN secretary General Ban Ki Moon in Istanbul in May to which I have been invited, I participated in a meeting of representatives of Faith Based Organizations and religious leaders convened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to receive briefings and provide input in preparation for the summit

**March 31<sup>st</sup> - Lambeth Palace, London**

I was honored to receive the Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith Cooperation from the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Justin Welby at Lambeth Palace



Rabbi David Rosen, left, and the Most Rev. Justin Welby shaking hands during yesterday's ceremony at Lambeth Palace

See:

<http://religionsforpeace.org/sites/default/files/pubications/Announcement.pdf>

<http://www.jewishnews.co.uk/archbishop-of-canterbury-honours-british-rabbi-for-interfaith-work/>

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5689/archbishop-of-canterbury-announces-new-set-of-lambeth-awards>

<http://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/news/archbishop-canterbury-recognizes-rabbi-david-rosen-achievements-interreligious>

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Madrid**

The leading Spanish University Francisco de Vitoria in Madrid held a special event in honor of the fiftieth anniversary on Nostra Aetate which I was honored to address



See: <http://comunicacioninstitucional.ufv.es/la-ufv-la-comunidad-judia-celebran-la-mesa-redonda-los-dones-de-dios-son-irrevocables-50-anos-del-dialogo-judeocatonico/>

<http://www.regnumchristi.org/es/mesa-redonda-en-la-ufv-dialogo-interreligioso/>

[http://www.religionconfidencial.com/otras\\_religiones/rivalidad-cristianos-dificulta-fomenta-antisemitismo\\_0\\_2685931386.html](http://www.religionconfidencial.com/otras_religiones/rivalidad-cristianos-dificulta-fomenta-antisemitismo_0_2685931386.html)

<https://es.zenit.org/articles/judios-y-catolicos-un-acercamiento-que-en-la-historia-nunca-fue-tan-grande/>

**April 4-7 - Warsaw**

The biennial meeting of the International Jewish-Catholic Liaison Committee (constituted by the Holy See's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jewish people and the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations) was held in Warsaw, April 4-7.

AJC is a founding member of the ILC and IJCIC and was represented at this meeting by Rabbi Noam Marans, Lisa Palmieri Billig and myself .

The deliberations focused primarily on religious perspectives on the current refugee crisis.

During the course of the meeting the Catholic and Jewish participants visited Treblinka where I was honored to address the gathering and lead memorial prayers.



The concluding declaration of the ILC meeting may be viewed at <https://zenit.org/articles/joint-declaration-of-23rd-international-catholic-jewish-liaison-committee-meeting/>

**April 10-12 - Vienna**

The first meeting of the Advisory Forum of KAICIID was convened in Vienna at the Dialogue Center. KAICIID is the world's only intergovernmental organization governed by a multi-religious Board of Directors. The Advisory Forum's establishment expands and deepens the geographic, religious and cultural inclusivity of KAICIID's work to promote social cohesion through interreligious dialogue.



On the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> an interactive interreligious meeting took place that gathered interreligious dialogue practitioners from around the world, as well as diplomats and stakeholders from intergovernmental organizations, policy-makers, civil society and the media in Vienna to discuss KAICIID's work and mandate.