



## Monthly Highlights

July-August 2016

*International Interreligious Affairs*

### **July 28, Krakow, Poland**

Pope Francis visited Krakow at the end of July for World Youth Day, the large international gathering of Catholic young people that is held every three years in a different country.

On this occasion Pope Francis visited Auschwitz/Birkenau to pay homage to the victims of the Shoah and I was honored to be invited to be in attendance for that occasion.

I was interviewed extensively by the media on the significance of the occasion. The following items were republished internationally:

<http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/07/30/world/europe/pope-francis-auschwitz.html?referer=>

<http://www.ipost.com/International/Pope-at-Auschwitz-asks-God-to-forgive-so-much-cruelty-462731>

Video interview with JBS <https://youtu.be/7fICCaJkNqw>

And an op-ed in the Religious News Service:

<http://religionnews.com/2016/08/05/what-pope-francis-visit-to-auschwitz-means-to-the-jews/>

Following the Papal visit, the Catholic Center in Oswiecim for Education about the Shoah and Reconciliation hosted a meeting with Cardinal Koch (President of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with Jewry, who accompanied the Pope to Poland), that included Polish Catholic leaders (among them Archbishop Henryk Muszynski) together with myself, Rabbi Avraham Skorka and Rabbi Michael Shudrich the chief rabbi of Poland, to discuss the work of the center and its development.



Being greeted by Cardinal Koch together with Rabbi Avraham Skorka of Buenos Aires



Cardinal Koch opens the lunch with grace; on his left is Archbishop Henryk Muszynski of Gniezno, former President of the Polish Catholic Bishops' Conference

### **August, South Africa**

I was invited by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies Cape Council for three events :- to give the keynote address at the Board's Annual conference; to speak at the Cape Limmud conference; and above all to participate in a Nostra Aetate 50th anniversary celebratory event hosted by the Jewish community and the Cape Archdiocese.

<https://www.facebook.com/Cape.Jewish.Board.of.Deputies/photos/pb.110635462379163.-2207520000.1472144614./949346135174754/?type=3&theater>

The Nostra Aetate event was held on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and attended by a Jewish-Catholic audience of some five hundred people. Presentations were made by Bishop Graham Rose and myself.

The evening was moderated by Rabbi Dovid Wineberg of the Sea Point Hebrew Congregation (my former pulpit) and closed with words from the Archbishop of Cape Town Stephen Brislin.



Together with Archbishop Stephen Breslin of Cape Town (on my right) and Bishop Graham Rose of Dundee,

<https://www.facebook.com/Cape.Jewish.Board.of.Deputies/photos/pb.110635462379163.-2207520000.1472144614./955969931179041/?type=3&theater> - audience

The Cape Council of the Board of Deputies held its conference on August 28<sup>th</sup> on the theme “Thrive or Survive” and I gave the keynote address.

<https://www.facebook.com/Cape.Jewish.Board.of.Deputies/photos/pb.110635462379163.-2207520000.1472726329./958570610918973/?type=3&theater> C-T

The Cape Argus published a profile on me and my work

<http://www.iol.co.za/weekend-argus/five-years-in-sa-made-all-the-difference-2061636>

and I was interviewed by Imam Rashied Omar about my involvement in the beginning of the inter-faith movement in South Africa

<https://youtu.be/gwhhLSS1Qig>

In addition, I participated in Nostra Aetate events in Durban and Johannesburg.

The Durban event on August 24<sup>th</sup> was a multifaith gathering hosted by Cardinal Wilfred Napier the Catholic primate of South Africa and addresses were given by the Papal Nuncio Archbishop Peter Wells and myself

<https://www.facebook.com/SAJBD/photos/pcb.1258308224203571/1258308110870249/?type=3>



Between Cardinal Wilfred Napier, Primate of South Africa, and the Papal Nuncio to South Africa Archbishop Peter Wells

And the Jewish communal event in Johannesburg took place on August 30<sup>th</sup>

<http://sazionfed.co.za/events/rabbi-david-rosen/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SAJBD/posts/1249242678443459:0>



With Sharon Rosen; Shaun Zagnoev, President of the SAJBD; Wendy Khan, Director of the SAJBD