

FRANCE CONSUL GENERAL ATTENDS COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS RETREAT

On November 19, 2015 Members of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago began their annual retreat with an interfaith prayer service which remembered in a special way the recent attacks in Paris and in other places of the world like Lebanon, Kenya and Nigeria. Leaders of Hinduism, different Christian denominations, Judaism, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Sikhism and Jainism called for God's help in understanding that we are sisters and brothers called to live in harmony with one another, respectful of each person's human rights and dignity.



Religious Leaders pose for a photo with France Consul General after prayer service

After standing for the playing of the French national anthem, "La Marseillaise", France Consul General in Chicago, Mr. Vincent Floreani, addressed the group thanking for the messages of solidarity expressed by people of different faiths. He emphasized that the Council gathering is a witness that no religion accepts terrorism and affirmed that we

need to remain faithful to our shared values echoed in France's motto of freedom, equality and fraternity.

The retreat continued with a very interesting presentation by Professor William Schweiker of the University of Chicago on the role of religion in America and the impact that religious communities have and must have in today's society. This was followed by an interesting of discussion that showed the importance of the topic.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the leaders elected the new officers for 2016-2017: Bishop Wayne Miller of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as President; Rev. B. Herbert Martin of the International Council of Community Churches as Vice President; Mr. Rohinton Rivetna of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago as Secretary and Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago as Treasurer.