

## Fr. Zaniolo attends the first meeting of the new Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development, held in Vatican City

On April 2 - 4, 2017, the very first meeting of the new Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development was held at the New Synod Hall in Vatican City. Among the 250 people invited to the meeting was Fr. Michael G. Zaniolo, STL, CAC, President of the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains in the USA and Administrator/Catholic Chaplain of O'Hare and Midway International Airports in Chicago.

Last August, the Holy Father announced that he was combining four Pontifical Councils into one new Dicastery. The Dicastery will promote the social teaching of the Church in order to imbue social, economic, and political relations with the spirit of the Gospel.



*Fr. Zaniolo & Cardinal Turkson*

Cardinal Peter Turkson is the Prefect of this vast enterprise where the task at hand is to study and research the areas of justice and peace, development of peoples, human dignity and human rights. It is concerned in a special way with the phenomenon of migration, exploitation of migrants, human trafficking, enslavement, imprisonment, torture, and arms control.



*In Audience with Pope Francis*

The former Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples had airport chaplaincy as one of its sectors of responsibility. It is now a sector of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development.

This first meeting was an opportunity for all the members of the former Pontifical Councils to get to know each other as members of a new, larger organization. "I was happy to see a few familiar faces there, especially my European colleague, Fr. Michel Gaillard," Fr. Zaniolo said. Fr. Michel is the Secretary General of the Vatican's European Civil Aviation Secretariat.

The various presentations at the meeting reflected upon the encyclical *Populorum Progressio* of Pope Paul VI, promulgated on March 26, 1967. "It is amazing," said Fr. Zaniolo, "that the challenges in society that Pope Paul wrote about in his encyclical are still very much the challenges we face 50 years later!"

Please pray for the new Dicastery and its leaders, staff, & members; that the Holy Spirit may guide them as their mission develops and grows throughout the years ahead.

