



Religious Leader Involvement, Vicenza, Italy 21 Jan 2017



Left to right: Mons. Dal Ferro, Bishop Pizziol, two local deacons, CH Foster, Pastor Jourdan



Leaders gather in the sacristy to visit and discuss roles before the service.

Photos by Ms. Anna Ciccotti

Summary: The USAG Italy Chaplain (LTC) James Foster was invited to participate in an ecumenical Christian service in Vicenza, Italy on Jan 21, 2017. The Bishop of Vicenza, Bishop Beniamino Pizziol, presided over this second annual celebration of ecumenical fellowship in the Vicentino area. The service which had approximately 125 participants was organized by Monsignore Dal Ferro who is responsible for interfaith relations in this district. There were leaders from the Russian Orthodox Church, the Serbian Orthodox Church, and several others all participating together. The local Methodist pastor, Rev William Jourdan, gave the homily and encouraged us all to let this anniversary be a reminder to be faithful to the message of Jesus Christ. That message, according to Pastor Jourdan, is one of love that unites us all. He urged our churches from the Gospel text of Matt 5:13-16, to “be ambassadors of reconciliation and the love of Jesus Christ.” With this event and others to come we will continue to bridge gaps of interfaith relations between the Italian hosts and American Servicemembers stationed in Italy.