

PRESS RELEASE

Today, inauguration of Naples Airport Ecumenical Chapel, realised in conjunction with the Naples Archdioceses.

The religious ceremony was officiated by His Eminence, Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe and the representatives of other Christian denominations

Today, 2 December, 2009. the inaugural ceremony of the **Naples Airport Ecumenical Chapel** was held in the presence of local authorities, the press and the entire airport community.

The religious celebration – “liturgy of the word” – was officiated by **His Eminence Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe together with the ecumenical representatives of various other religious denominations** (Lutheran, Orthodox, Evangelical ect...).

The idea of the chapel came into being in cooperation with the Archdioceses of Naples, in keeping with Cardinal Sepe’s commitment in recent years aimed at promoting “inter-religious dialogue”. It should be noted that *on 21 October 21, 2007, the Cardinal promoted an encounter, in the same spirit as the Encounter of Assisi organised by the late John Paul II, of the heads of all the religions of the world in which was held in Naples.*

There are Ecumenical Chapels in all of the most important Italian (*Milan, Orio al Serio, Venice, Turin, Verona*) and European airports. These chapels serve as a place of worship for passengers and tourists in addition to providing a veritable pastoral service for the entire airport community.

As of today, the Ecumenical chapel will be open every day, including holidays – from 9.00a.m. to 6.00p.m.. Don Mario Cinto, a representative of the Naples Inter-Denominational Group of Ecumenical Activities, has been designated by the Naples Archdioceses as airport chaplain and will coordinate all the religious activities of the various denominations.

Naples Airport is an international airport which, as of today, has been enriched by the presence of an ecumenical chapel, a specific space for reflection and prayer which will serve all Christian denominations (Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Orthodox, Anglican, Calvinist) and is open to all passengers and visitors.

***A Brief note regarding the meaning of Ecumenical Chapels**

Ecumenical is intended as a place where followers of any Christian denomination may find welcome. These chapels are characterised by a sense of peacefulness and silence where all can be heard. In particular, all the fittings and elements donated by the various Christian denominations: *the alter, the cross, the ambon from which the litanies are read* are all SYMBOLS REPRESENTING THE UNITY OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

Naples, 2 December, 2009