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Speaks to Catholic Educators in A.C.

**Rabbi Slams ‘Indifference’**

By JOHN ROAK
Press Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — With charges of "indifference and almost callousness," American Catholics and Jews have responded to some monumental tragedies, in recent times, Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum said here Monday.

The rabbi, National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, was the keynote speaker of the 13th annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association which convened in Convention Hall.

He referred to the recent killings of church-goers in Uganda and of one million persons in Sudan.

He said that, at this moment, 400 million people are starving and 10,000 dying of hunger daily.

"Indeed 11 million persons in the United States continue to go to bed every night hungry," he said.

The theme of the speech was "Seeking A Just Society."

Rabbi Tannenbaum said the Jews have suffered through the "trauma of abandonment" and intend not to let it happen again. Before World War II, when Hitler's intentions toward the Jews became clear, no one - not governments, churches or labor unions - came to their aid, he said.

As "Jews are obsessed about the Middle East, persons of Irish descent should be similarly concerned about what is going on in Northern Ireland," he said.

"Look at what Greek American did," he said: through their pressure aid to Turkey was ended.

The rabbi hilled Catholics for their "prevention for life" in their opposition to abortion. They are expressing the dignity of humanity against the present trend toward dehumanization, he said.

He also hailed Father Theodore Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University, for mobilizing Catholics and Protestants and "grabbing Congress by the lapels" about the need for a $1.5 billion food aid bill.

He hailed a group of sisters in Washington who have undertaken to understand the intricacies of how our government works and how they can effect change.

"No longer can it be said that nuns are just to be patted on the head and their pictures taken," he said.

Noting that the United States has sold $86 billion worth of arms to foreign governments since 1950, Tannenbaum assailed the U.S. government for being the world's largest arms merchant.

"Is it right for a world community unable to feed all its people to spend so much on weapons?" he asked. "The arms trade can scarcely advance peace."

In each of the 84 military conflicts since World War II, the rabbi said, imported weapons were used almost exclusively to bring death to 10 million people.

"Until we have a bona fide world police force, it's still Dodge City and everyone wants a rifle over his door."

During our lifetime economic growth is going to taper off, the rabbi said. There will be tremendous problems within and among nations. Nations will have to share resources in a just society and this may mean to war of redistribution. Only an authoritarian or possible revolutionary regimes may be up to the task of social reorganization in orderly escape catastrophe.

Our whole industrial society may give away with less stress on technology, production and consumption, he said. In their place true, artistic, religion, viable civic and human communities will result. There, will be more attention to frugality and to artistic, spiritual and political pursuits.
AJ Committee Leader Tanenbaum

Anti-Abortion Stand Is Praised By Rabbi

ATLANTIC CITY — Calling for Catholics and Jews to "come together to discuss the relevance of life issue," Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum complimented the American Catholic bishops' strong anti-abortion stand.

The national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee said the bishops' position made "a fundamental contribution to halting the erosion of the dignity of human life." He added, however, that he was "frankly troubled by the way the barricades are mounted and the battle is fought."

IN WHAT is believed to be the first address by a rabbi to the National Catholic Educational Association convention, he assailed widespread callousness toward individual human life.

Thoughtful and scholarly dialogue on the issue across faith lines, he suggested, would be valuable in part because "the Jewish community needs to be... we have an identical Church in preserving the sanctity of life, and in viewing human life as so precious that even as a fetus it must be preserved."

EVENTS of the past few years, said Rabbi Tanenbaum, have produced such widespread rootlessness, disorientation and malaise inside and outside the religious community that a time for reassessment of values is at hand. He cited world hunger, the arms race and the changing technology of war as immediate problems.
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Rabbi at NCEA meet urges joint talks on the life issue

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (NC) — A leading Jewish spokesman for interreligious collaboration, Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), proposed here that Catholics and Jews “come together to discuss the relevance of life issue.”

Addressing the opening general session of the 72nd annual National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) convention, he assailed widespread callousness toward individual human life.

HE SAID this was seen in such events as the rise in violent crime, indifference to famine, the killing of Christians in Sudan, the non-reaction of many Irish Americans to events in Ireland and the lack of accountability shown by large corporate interests such as oil companies eager to bilk consumers by claiming to sell domestic oil as imported oil.

Rabbi Tanenbaum said that interfaith dialogue on the pro-life issue would be valuable because nationally and internationally “the issue of life is still believed to be the first among equals.”

He complimented American Catholic bishops for their strong anti-abortion stances and proposed another joint move:

“Americans and Catholics of good will should work together to deliver a major anti-callousness, expendable, materialism, indifference to suffering and our preoccupation with material things has killed something spiritual inside us.”

He said this was true both nationally and internationally: “the issue of life is still believed to be the first among equals” and suggested that Catholics and Jews “come together to discuss the relevance of life issue.”

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