



# THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 106, Folder 7, St. Joseph's College [Philadelphia, Pa.]. 13  
November 1975.



## **"New Dimensions in Jewish-Catholic Relations"**

The theme of our dialogue answers an implied question in the affirmative. Are there indeed new dimensions in the autumn of 1975 in relations between the Jewish and Catholic communities? Most observers agree that with the experience of ten years since the declaration of the Second Vatican Council on relations with Jewish people, much has been learned and new dimensions of dialogue and cooperation do exist.

The road traveled these past ten years has not always been a smooth one. Mistakes have been made, misunderstandings and suspicions persist, and very much remains to be accomplished. Nonetheless, the accomplishments of the period warrant an optimistic approach to the future. Most recently, on the Catholic side, there have been the issuance of the Vatican Guidelines for implementing the Vatican Council decree and the establishment of the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

The latter Commission will meet regularly with the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, which is itself just one of the many initiatives taken by the international Jewish community in the area of interreligious affairs. Our Protestant friends have also been active, as is evidenced by the opening of new desks for Christian-Jewish relations in both the World and National Councils of Churches.

All these efforts provide a splendid framework within which to consider and deal with the "new dimensions" in relations between our various communities. It is the goal of our dialogue to explore what these new dimensions are, and what they should be. Having listened to our eminently qualified speakers, we will all have a chance to share with them and with each other our own views and experiences. The result should be a stimulus, a learning process, an encouragement - and thus another step forward in understanding and cooperation between Jews and Catholics.

# **NEW DIMENSIONS IN JEWISH-CATHOLIC RELATIONS**



A Dialogue Sponsored By:

The Jewish-Catholic Institute  
of Saint Joseph's College

The American Jewish Committee:  
Philadelphia Chapter

Cardinal's Commission on Human Relations

Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia:  
Committee on Religion and Social Action

Thursday, November 13, 1975

8:00 P.M.

North Commons, Campion Center  
Saint Joseph's College  
City Avenue and 54th Street

## THE SPEAKERS

Monsignor George G. Higgins, Secretary for Research of the United States Catholic Conference, has been a leading Catholic spokesman in the fields of



social justice and interreligious affairs for over thirty years. He joined the staff of the Social Action Department of the U.S. Catholic Conference (then the National Catholic Welfare Conference) in 1944, and directed that department for eighteen years until his appointment as Secretary for Research in 1972. Widely known for his efforts in the civil rights movement and more recently on behalf of the farm laborers, Monsignor Higgins has been a consultant to the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Committee for Catholic-Jewish Relations since the time of the Second Vatican Council.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, has been a pioneering leader and thinker in interreligious relations for nearly 25 years. A modern historian writing recently in *Commentary Magazine*, characterized Rabbi Tanenbaum as "the leading figure among Jewish ecumenists" in the fields of interreligious relations and social justice.



A religious historian and authority on Judaism and Jewish-Christian relations, he has written and lectured extensively on the history, theology, and sociology of Judaism and Christianity. Rabbi Tanenbaum is a founder and co-secretary of a joint Vatican-International Jewish Consultative Committee and of a similar liaison body with the World Council of Churches.

## PROGRAM

**Rev. Donald G. Clifford, S.J.**  
Director, Jewish-Catholic Institute  
of Saint Joseph's College  
*Chairman*

**Very Rev. Terrence Toland, S.J.**  
President, Saint Joseph's College  
*Welcome*

**Richard J. Fox**  
Board Chairman, Philadelphia Chapter,  
American Jewish Committee  
*Remarks*

**Monsignor George G. Higgins**  
**Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum**  
*Principal Addresses*

"New Dimensions in Jewish-Catholic Relations"

Refreshments - Campion Center Dining Hall

Map of Saint Joseph's College Campus Enclosed



11/13



# SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19131

November 5, 1975

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director - Interreligious Affairs  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

Just a brief, final word prior to our Jewish-Catholic dialogue here at St. Joseph's on Thursday evening, the 13th. As you may know already from Murray Friedman, we are planning a small dinner to welcome yourself and George Higgins on Thursday beginning with cocktails about 5:30. The dinner will take place in the same building as the program itself so we will have the opportunity to dine and chat at a fairly leisurely pace.

If you have not already made arrangements to be met on arrival with the local AJC people, we will be glad to see that you get to St. Joseph's from the airport or 30th street station.

As to the program itself, we will begin about 8 o'clock following brief remarks by Terry Toland and Dick Fox. We would like you and George to speak for about 30 minutes each, after which we will throw open the session to questions and general discussion. We plan to end the evening with an informal reception at about 10 o'clock.

I look forward to seeing you once again here at St. Joseph's, honorary alumnus and old friend that you are.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Clifford, S.J.  
Director  
Jewish-Catholic Institute

DGC:cfp

October 10, 1975

Rev. Donald G. Clifford, S.J.  
Director, Jewish-Catholic Institute  
Saint Joseph's College  
54th Street and City Line Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131

Dear Don,

Thank you very much for your warm and thoughtful letter of October the third.

This will confirm my acceptance of your kind invitation to join with George Higgins at your November 13th institute.

I will look forward to being part of that program if for no other reason than it will give me an opportunity to renew our friendship.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR



*on four*



# SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19131

October 3, 1975

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum  
American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Marc:

I know that you have talked recently with Tom Melady, and that he has confirmed with you by letter that our dialogue at St. Joseph's College featuring yourself and George Higgins will be held on the evening of November 13th. I will be in touch with you again in the near future by phone or by letter to give you what suggestions I have as to the content of the two presentations, but I think that from your conversation with Tom you already have a pretty clear idea of the kind of thing we would hope to have from you and Monsignor Higgins. That is, the emphasis would be not so much on a detailed review of the past ten years, but rather what we have learned from this period and where we might hope to go from here.

Thank you for having your secretary send the photos and biographical sketch which we will use in our promotional brochure. I will look forward to seeing you again soon in Philadelphia and will keep you informed of further progress in our planning for November 13th.

Yours sincerely,

*Don Clifford, S.J.*

Donald G. Clifford, S.J.  
Director  
Jewish-Catholic Institute

DGC:cfp



*F. Speckley  
Engagement*

## SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19131

VICE-PRESIDENT

30 September 1975

Dear Marc,

It was good to see you last Friday. We are all looking forward to your presentation on our campus on November 13th, 1975. We know that you and George Higgins will give us a great program. I suggest that you talk with George about your presentations.

Looking forward to seeing you on November 13th, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*TPM*  
Thomas Patrick Melady  
Executive Vice President

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

*for Phela Viset*

November 12th 1975

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

Marc -

Just a reminder about your visit to Philadelphia tomorrow - I spoke to Murray Friedman again about Fred Rosenbloom and the Maneeley Fund. The Fund's recent gift of \$1,000. was not for AJC - and not related to St. Joseph's University.

While Murray is still reluctant for us to "go back to the well" too often, I think it important to be in touch with Mr. Rosenbloom, and to discuss a project for AJC funding. A new calendar year will soon be here and the Fund will be deciding on additional projects for funding. It is not too early to discuss possibilities with Mr. Rosenbloom.

His telephone number in Phila is: 491-0408.  
Address: 1719 Packard Building

*Rita*  
Rita





PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER  
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE  
1502 FOX BUILDING  
1612 MARKET STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNA. 19103

October 21, 1975

Father Donald Clifford  
Roger Meltzer

Higgins-Tanenbaum Seminar on November 13

Murray and I have been kicking around some ideas for a possible format for the above (news release attached). Here is our thinking at the moment:

- 8:00 P.M. - 8:15 P.M. Welcome -- Father Toland  
Brief opening remarks -- Richard J. Fox  
Invocation (if appropriate) -- Rabbi Morris Dembowitz  
Introduction of speakers (see attached bios) -- Father Clifford
- 8:15 P.M. - 9:15 P.M. Presentations (approximately 30 minutes each) --  
Msgr. Higgins and Rabbi Tanenbaum  
"New Dimensions in Catholic-Jewish Relations"
- 9:15 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. Panel Response (maybe one question or comment from each) --  
Dr. Melady, Father Devlin, Rabbi Waintrup, Dr. Friedman  
(purpose of panel essentially to set intellectual tone of  
audience comments and questions, avoid endless rhetoric  
about Cardinal's pilgrimage or bloody noses from  
parochial school students)
- 9:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. Audience response - comments, questions and answers  
(might be asked to submit in writing and pass forward)
- 10:00 P.M. Benediction (if appropriate) -- Bishop Graham  
Reception

RM:r

Enclosures

cc: Father Charles Devlin  
Rabbi Harold Waintrup  
Richard J. Fox

bc: ✓ Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

11/13

~~10/23~~

2  
memorandum

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

**date** FO-PA-D-M  
August 26, 1975

**to** Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

**from** Murray Friedman *M.F.*

**subject**

Assuming that we can work out the Cardinal Krol matter, and proceed with our award to the Cardinal's Commission on Human Relations on October 22, we have learned that Msgr. Higgins has agreed to participate with us and St. Joseph's College at an Institute on Catholic-Jewish Relations on October 23. I understand that previously you have indicated a willingness to be the other half of this dynamic duo. This is to confirm, therefore, that this date has been set, again, assuming that we don't go to war with the Catholic church before then.

MF:r





11/13 10/75

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

**date** FO-PA-D-M  
September 4, 1975

**to** Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

**from** Murray Friedman *M.F.*

**subject** Annual Meeting - Phila. Chapter

I found our phone conversation extremely helpful, as you know, and my guess is that the idea of postponement of the award, continuation of Fr. Flannery as the speaker on October 22nd, and probably a later Institute that could even include Krol on St. Joseph's College turf, followed finally by an award to the Cardinal's Commission on Human Relations in the spring or during the Eucharistic Congress, all making much sense. I would hold out the possibility of going through with the Higgins-Tanenbaum Institute at St. Joseph's College the day after our Annual Meeting, too, although my present inclination is to go for a later Institute even with or without Krol.

Because of the gravity of the issues, our President has convened an Executive Committee meeting at 11:00 a.m. on September 12th prior to our Board Meeting in order to insure that our most mature leadership brings in a recommendation to the Board Meeting at 12:15 p.m. Obviously, your presence at 11:00 o'clock would be helpful. It is entirely possible that the approach indicated above may find acceptance in our top leadership before then, in which case we will not need your "clout", but I think your presence as an indication of National AJC interest and concern as well as to help interpret the totality of the situation would be useful, and I would urge you to come to both meetings.

*Dictated before 2d phone conversation.*

MF:h  
cc: Selma Hirsh