



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 11, College of Notre Dame [Baltimore, Md.]. 20
January 1976.



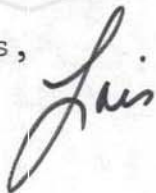
THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date January 23, 1976
to Marc Tanenbaum
from Lois Rosenfield
subject

As always, it was great to have you in Baltimore. I have already accepted so many compliments on your behalf that I feel six feet tall. Thank you for your cooperation and participation in our Vatican II conference.

Please let me know if you plan to be in Baltimore in June to address the workshop for Sister Frances Regis at the College of Notre Dame.

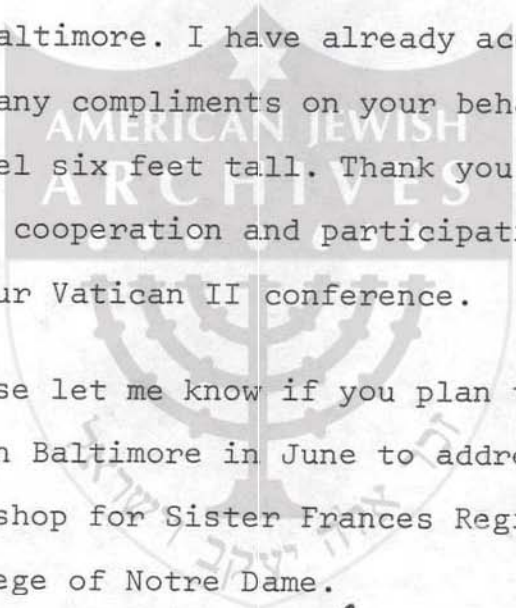
With warm regards,



LR/mew

CC: Isaiah Terman

*if
Rev.
Flannery
accepts*



February 6, 1976 • BALTIMORE JEWISH TIMES



LAWRENCE CARDINAL SHEHAN, (left) former Archbishop of Baltimore, was recently honored by the American Jewish Committee for the focal role he played in encouraging Vatican Council II, ten years ago, to adopt the Declaration on Non-Christian Religions that repudiated anti-Semitism and absolved the Jewish people of the charge of deicide. Dr. Morton K. Blaustein (center) Baltimore industrialist, who is a national Vice President of the Committee and a former Chairman of its Baltimore chapter, presented the Cardinal with the organization's National Interreligious Award — an original lithograph by the noted artist Chaim Gross, bearing the Hebrew words "shalom" meaning "peace", and "emmet" meaning "truth." Standing at right is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the Committee.

Cdl. Shehan gets Jewish award

By GERARD A. PERSEGHIN
News editor

Marking the 10th anniversary of the Church's official change in posture towards Jews, leaders of the local and national Jewish community honored Cardinal Shehan this week for his part in improving Catholic-Jewish relations.

During the program on the future of Jewish-Catholic relations, held at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland Tuesday afternoon, Morton K. Blaustein presented the cardinal with the National Interreligious Award of the American Jewish Committee (AJC).

The award is a framed lithograph by Austrian-born artist Chaim Gross. Below the picture, symbolizing the common beliefs and good will of Jews and Christians, a citation recalls the cardinal's "historic contribution to 'fraternal dialogue and mutual respect'...between the Catholic and Jewish communities."

"I am indeed grateful to receive this award," the cardinal responded in a voice touched by the sincerity of the remembrance and honor. As Archbishop Borders looked on, the cardinal said, "I assure all of you that I appreciate the honor bestowed upon me."

Cardinal Shehan has been remembered fondly by Jews not only for the instrumental part he played in the Church's issuing of the 1966 Vatican declaration *Nostra Aetate* or the Declaration on Non-Christian Religions, but also for his continued efforts to improve such relations. During the Second Vatican Council, the cardinal was a member of the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity. Before the presentation Mr. Blaustein reminisced about the long and friendly relationship his late father Jacob, a prominent Baltimore businessman, had with the cardinal. Mr. Blaustein, national vice president of the AJC, asked to present the award because of his father's association with the cardinal, an association which pre-dated the Vatican II document.

Mr. Blaustein said that between April 1964 and December 1965, his father and the cardinal held "several lengthy meetings, and my father received 35 letters, many written by Cardinal Shehan in long hand, from Rome."

Mr. Blaustein said the letters "reflect a deep friendship, the kind of brotherly friendship that Vatican II meant to bring about."

The Declaration on Non-Christian Religions worked "the fundamental change in relations between Jews and Catholics, now reflected in courses in schools, in homilies and everyday

relationships between Catholics and Jews. It has revolutionized Catholic-Jewish relations," Mr. Blaustein said.

Representing Jews nationally was Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum who is national director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee. He has referred to Cardinal Shehan's role in the passage of the Declaration on Non-Christian Religions as being "crucial."

The local Jewish community was represented by Rabbi Jacob B. Agus, head of Beth El Congregation, who spoke on Judeo-Christian humanism. Rabbi Agus called the Vatican declaration "the end of one chapter and the beginning of another" in Jewish-Christian relations. He said that Jews and Catholics must now unite to fight the "threat" of nihilism, a doctrine that denies traditional values. He said this is the "perhaps the strongest bond that unites us" as we are confronted by the future.

Fr. Joseph M. Connolly, a member of the archdiocesan Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, warned of a future holocaust similar to that of World War II when Jews and other non-Germans — "others," as Father Connolly said, — were persecuted and slaughtered. He warned that there is the "possibility" that "we Americans can

commit a future holocaust, not of Jews but of blacks and other coloreds."

Father Connolly asked that scholars study the history which led to the German holocaust so we are not "condemned" to repeat it. He also argued, "Ecumenists who do not root out racism, deny the base of their own ecumenism. Praise the Lord for the witness given by our own Cardinal Shehan who intuitively grasped this and crowned his apostolate with great efforts in both fields."

Also delivering an address during the afternoon program was Paulist Fr. John Sheerin, general consultant to the U.S. Bishops' Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations.

Speaking on the Vatican "Guidelines for the Implementation of *Nostra Aetate*," which are intended for Catholics, Father Sheerin said that they show "great promise of the future success in Catholic-Jewish dialogue."



Review photo by Robert H. Davis

Rabbi Tanenbaum listens to tributes.

January 23, 1976

The Catholic Review



Review photo by Robert H. Davis

Cdl. Shehan prepares to receive honor.

F. - Baets

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

B-6

The Catholic Review

January 9, 1976

Interfaith events scheduled

Jews, Catholics to meet

An interfaith seminar entitled, "Vatican II: Ten Years Later—What Remains to Be Done," will be held Jan. 20 at the Continuing Education Center of the College of Notre Dame.

The seminar, slated from 1 to 5 p.m., is being sponsored by the Baltimore Jewish Council, the Baltimore Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and the Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The seminar, open to the public, will have as its point of departure the "Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religion." Cardinal Shehan was instrumental in having the declaration adopted by the Second Vatican Council in 1965. The doctrine stated, in part, that the Jews could not be held responsible for the death of Jesus Christ, and denounced anti-Semitism in any form.

The seminar will appraise the



RABBI TANENBAUM

current state of Jewish-Catholic relations in light of the Vatican II document and will also examine prospects for future relations. According to Stanley Sollins, executive

director of the Baltimore Jewish Council, "Its goal is to promote increased Jewish-Catholic understanding through an exchange of ideas and dialogue."

Cardinal Shehan will be given an award in recognition of his outstanding commitment to promoting better Jewish-Catholic relations.

Cardinal Shehan was the moving spirit behind the creation of the Interfaith Council of Greater Baltimore and was instrumental in having a rabbi appointed to the archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. He was also the first Catholic prelate to preach from the pulpit of a synagogue.

In 1965, as a member of the committee formed to implement working guidelines

against anti-Semitism, Cardinal Shehan represented the group which pressed for a more liberal interpretation of the Vatican II document. Although he was not the author of the final declaration adopted in January 1975, Cardinal Shehan contributed substantially to its formulation in his stance for a liberal Catholic position.

Many prominent religious leaders from the Jewish and Catholic communities will participate in the seminar, among them Archbishop Borders, who will deliver the greetings; Rabbi Jacob B. Agus of Beth El Congregation, who will speak on "Judeo-Christian Humanism"; and Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

Balto

F-

F Baltimore Md

January 28, 1976

Dr. Morton K. Blaustein
1 North Charles
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

Dear Morton,

I wanted to express in writing how much all of us appreciated the contribution you made to the success of our meeting with Cardinal Shehan.

AMERICAN JEWISH

From every account that I have received both from Catholics and Jews, this seminar proved to be virtually a complete success by all the standards that we normally apply to such dialogues. As you know, no small measure of that success was due to the spirit of warmth and authentic friendship that you brought to your own presentation to the Cardinal.

As you can see, The Catholic Review regarded it as a most important occasion, giving the story top billing in their official diocesan newspaper.

I hope we will have continued opportunities to collaborate together in such areas of solid common interests for the welfare of our people.

Again, with much appreciation and my warmest good wishes to your mother,

Cordially as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Enclosure

bcc: Bert Gold
Murray Friedman
Lois Rosenfield