Box 106, Folder 28, College of Mt. St. Joseph [Cincinnati, Ohio].
VI ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION — 1976
College of Mount St. Joseph, Cincinnati, Ohio

THEME: The Contribution of Religions to American
Civilisation: A Retrospect and a Forecast

Sunday, June 13, 8:00 p.m. — Keynote Address — Rev. Joseph Goetz

MONDAY, JUNE 14
8:30 a.m. St. Paul’s Doctrine on Natural and Ecclesial Man
10:00 The National Yet to Be
11:15 From Nothing to Something
12:30 p.m. Moral Formation of the Young as One of the Church’s
Civilising Functions
2:00 Theological Reflections on American Cultural Pluralism
3:15 Peoples and Religions of America
7:30 The American Bicentennial: Moral Challenge to
Christians and Jews
Opening Liturgy — principal Celebrant — Bishop Daniel Pilarczyk

Rev. B. Ahern, C.P., Dr. B. Garrison
Rev. J. Champlin
Rev. J. DiGiacomo, S.J.
Dr. Caroline Golab
Rabb M. Tanenbaum

TUESDAY, JUNE 15
8:30 a.m. Religious Values in an Age of Violence
10:00 American Theology and The Christian Tradition I
11:15 Prayer, Growth, Touch
12:30 p.m. New Challenges in the Field of Moral Education
2:00 Catholic Theology and the Analogical Imagination on
Social Justice in the U.S.
3:15 American Theology II
7:30 American a Planetary People

Rabbi Tanenbaum
Dr. Peikkan
Father Champlin
Father DiGiacomo
Father Tracy
Dr. Peikkan
Dr. M. Novak

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16
8:30 a.m. Christ the Lord and the Head of the Church
10:00 American, Come of Age
11:15 Art and Mysticism
12:30 Religion and the Black Community
2:00 The Urban Parish — A Place Where We Belonged
3:15 Sports as Religion
4:30 Teresa of Avila & Women Saints as Role Models for Feminists
7:30 1978 America: Advertising and the Religious Myths

Father Ahern
Rosemary Haughton
Dr. Karen Novak
Bishop Joseph Howze
Dr. Mary J. Durkin
Dr. M. Novak
Rev. R. Hater

THURSDAY, JUNE 17
8:30 a.m. The future of Christianity in the Communications Age
10:00 Christianity and Civil Religions
11:15 Educating our Children for Moral Creativity and Responsibility
12:30 The Teenager’s Quest
2:00 Religion and the American for Which We Hope
3:15 The Suburban Woman-Her changing Role in the Church
7:30 Diversity, Yes, But Unity, Too

Rev. J. Hardon, S.J.
Dr. J. Hitchcock
Dr. Francoise Darcy-Berube
Mary R. Newland
Rev. R. Neuhaus
Dr. Durkin
Dr. Arthur Mann

FRIDAY, JUNE 18
8:30 a.m. The Church in the World of Paul and Today
10:00 The Catholic Contribution to American Democracy in the
Past and in the Future (2 lectures)
11:15 Ethics and Religion in America I
3:15 The Future of Christianity in America
7:30 Ethics and Religion in America II

Father Ahern
Dr. David O’Brien
Msgr. Geno Baroni
Dr. Hitchcock
Msgr. Baroni

F E E S: Registration Fee $10 — Board and Room on Campus $65 — TUITION: Non-Credit, $30; 2 Undergrad.
10% Graduate Cr. $70. Special rates for 10 or more registering from one place at the same time.
For further information, write: Religious Education Institute,
College of Mount St. Joseph (Cincinnati), Mount St. Joseph, Ohio 45051
Bicentennial Misgivings
Heard at Mount Institute

By Judy Ball

Approximately 350 religious educators from all parts of the United States gathered at the College of Mt. St. Joseph last week to look at the contributions religion has made to American civilization in the past 200 years and to focus on what it might accomplish in the nation's third century.

The college's sixth Ecumenical Institute on Religious Education, under the direction of Father Angelo della Pica, drew a smaller crowd than in past years. But those who did attend heard experts in Scripture, ethnicity, ecumenism, religious education, history and theology.

Among the speakers was Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, who characterized the American bicentennial as an "incomparable theme" for many people. It is "a moment in the life of this nation which could have, should have, which still may be an occasion for reflection, for recommitment to something profound," he said. Instead, noted the national director of inter-religious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, Americans have allowed the bicentennial to be associated with plastic liberty bells and even red, white and blue skull caps.

'Sense of Malaise'

Observing that there is a greater sense of urgency about the need to reflect on the meaning of America "than in almost any time in the past," Rabbi Tanenbaum pointed to a "sense of malaise in the American spirit" aggravated, if not caused, by such painful realities as Vietnam, the Pentagon Papers, Watergate allegations against the FBI, the CIA and the IRS, cheating at West Point and, in the religious sphere, the revelation of misused funds by the Patolotti Fathers. It is therefore not surprising, Rabbi Tanenbaum said, that polls show that one of the greatest concerns of Americans is the need for public morality.

The founding fathers and mothers of this nation were committed to morality and public virtue, he said, observing that it was felt free government could not exist without such qualities. While the bicentennial should be a period of celebration, the rabbi said, it should also be a moment in which Americans "reflect on that critical period when, on the eve of the Revolution, the country was preoccupied with the importance of moral qualities in its experiment and in its people."

A focus on the future of Christianity in America was the task of historian, Dr. James Hitchcock of St. Louis University. While he described himself as a "qualified pessimist" about the future of Christianity, Dr. Hitchcock nevertheless noted that the course of the future can still be influenced.

'Counterfeit Signs'

Although acknowledging that there has been something of a "religious revival" in society over the past five years (including the "Jesus freaks," the students of astrology and the occult, the new followers of Eastern religions), he expressed the opinion that it is a "revival that represents, for the most part, "a counterfeit of religion."

At the same time, he said, it points to the fact that there is a religious impulse in society, "a desire to find religious meaning." Noting that it is something like a sexual urge that is difficult to suppress, Dr. Hitchcock said that this impulse must find expression, whether through conventional means or through more "offbeat" channels like the occult.

Looking to the future, he predicted the emergence of what he called the "New Epicureanism," a way of life that will be based on the assumption that, while all material wants can be gratified in society, it is the spiritual frontier of man and his spiritual needs which are to be explored and met. Self-fulfillment and self-understanding will be accepted however, more than relationship with God, he said.

In such a scheme, said Dr. Hitchcock, God is seen not so much as distinct from His creatures but as just another aspect or dimension of human existence.

Future Risks

He also predicted that because Christianity today is losing its vitality too often standing for "nothing clear and consistent") it will increasingly risk being manipulated and controlled. Although it has historically resisted losing its identity, he said, there is a "growing tendency by which a new syncretic world religion is being brought into existence."

But he expressed the opinion that Christianity should resist becoming part of a "religious stew."

"If Christianity has any presence that it can bring to the society of the 21st century," he said, "it will be in terms of its own authentic self," even if that means being in tension and conflict with the prevailing culture around it.

Father James Giglio, S.J., chairman of the religious studies department at Fordham Preparatory school in Brooklyn, spoke of the Church's historical role as a "riddle of discernment."
April 13, 1976

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

Dear Marc,

Thank you for your letter of April 9 and for the topics which you have submitted. They sound fine!

I am glad you can arrange to be here for the 14th and 15th. Would it be possible for you to take the 2:00 p.m. session on the 14th instead of the one that evening? This would then give you one lecture at 2:00 on the 14th and the other at 8:30 a.m. on the 15th. I hope this will not inconvenience you in any way.

If you wish, you could just jot a note at the bottom of this letter and return it to me so I will know whether or not this change in schedule is acceptable.

With good wishes and a prayerful remembrance of you and your important work, I am

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Angelo A. della Picca

AdP/sae
April 9, 1976

Rev. Angelo A. Palle Picca
College of Mount St. Joseph on the Ohio
Mount St. Joseph, Ohio 45201

My dear Angelo

Thank you for your recent letter. My travel schedule has delayed my responding to you before now.

I find that I can arrange to be with you on the 14th and 15th so let's keep it that way.

As for lecture topics:


Religious Values in an Age of Violence.

I hope these meet with your approval.

With warmest personal good wishes for a joyous and, above all, a peaceful Holy Season.

Cordially as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT: RPR
March 1, 1976

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

Dear Marc,

Your letter of February 26 came today. I can imagine what a heavy schedule of travel you have, and I sympathize with you. I'm sure it must be exhausting at times.

In regard to the dates for your lectures here, I find that it is impossible for us to make a change in order to schedule you on the 16th and 17th. Therefore, since you said that, if necessary, you could accommodate yourself to the original schedule of the 14th and 15th, I will appreciate it very much if you will do so, and plan to be here on those days.

Again, my thanks and good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Angelo A. della Picca

AdP/sae

P.S. We still need your specific lecture topics.
February 26, 1976

Rev. Angelo A. della Picca
College of Mount St. Joseph on the Ohio
Mount Saint Joseph, Ohio 45051

Dear Angelo,

Thank you for your recent good letter. My delay in responding grows simply out of a terribly heavy schedule of travel and lecturing during recent weeks.

The date for my lectures would be more convenient for me if it could be June 16th and 17th. I could make the June 14th and 15th date if necessary. Do let me know if there is still time to set it up for the 16th and 17th as first choice. Otherwise, I will accommodate myself accordingly.

Also, enclosed is a revised biographical sketch.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am

Cordially as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR
Enclosure
Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 E. 56th St.  
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Marc,

Thank you for your prompt response to my recent letter. Of course I am delighted to have your confirmation of acceptance for our 1976 Institute.

In scheduling, we will keep in mind that June 14 and 15 are best for you. We expect to have a definite plan worked out by the first week of December and will be able to give you further details at that time.

I can appreciate how very busy you must be with your many and varied commitments, and I have the greatest admiration for your work and the dedicated spirit you bring to it.

Thank you for your good wishes and prayers. They are more than appreciated.

Gratefully yours,

Rev. Angelo A. della Picca

AdP/sae
October 20, 1975

Rev. Angelo A. della Picca
College of Mount St. Joseph on the Ohio
Mount St. Joseph, Ohio 45051

My dear Angelo,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter of October 7th.

I do recall that I agreed to accept your kind invitation to speak at your 1976 Institute on the theme that you propose.

This will confirm my acceptence of your invitation. At the moment it appears that the best days for me are June 14th and 15th. It would help me if you let me know whether you would want me to deliver one or two lectures so that I can work out my calendar accordingly.

Things have been going well, very busy, sometimes satisfying, sometimes frustrating. But that is our common human condition. I think of you often and pray for the success of your work and for your own good health and continued strength.

Cordially as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs
October 7, 1975

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
165 E. 56th St.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

When you were here in June we spoke of the 1976 Institute and our projected theme - The Contribution of Religions to the American Civilisation: A Retrospect and a Forecast. The dates next summer will be June 14 to 19.

We would very much like to have you return to our Institute in 1976 and hope you will find it possible to be with us. I will appreciate it if you will let me know the day or days you will be available during the week of June 14, and also suggested topics. We can then work out details later.

I hope all has been going well for you and I send best wishes for you and your important work.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Angelo A. della Picca
Mount Institute to Focus On Religions in America

The contribution of religions to American civilization will be the theme of the sixth Ecumenical Institute on Religious Education to be held June 13-18 at the College of Mt. St. Joseph.

Keynote speaker will be Father Joseph W. Goetz, associate dean of Mt. St. Mary seminary, Norwood. Father Goetz, who has a doctorate in philosophy from Cambridge University, England, will speak on the theme, which institute officials said is to include "a retrospect and a forecast."

Among the score of speakers who will address institute participants will be Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Howze of Natchez-Jackson, Miss., one of the three black Catholic bishops in the U.S. He will discuss religion in America and the Black community.

Other speakers whose subjects have been announced include:

Father Robert J. Hater, director of religious education of the Cincinnati archdiocese, on "1976 America: Advertising and Religious Myths."

Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan, Lutheran theologian and Yale University professor, "American Theology and the Christian Tradition."

Father Barnabas Ahern, C.P., Scripture scholar and member of Pope Paul's Theological Commission, who will speak on several Scripture-related subjects.

Father Joseph Champlin, Fulton (N.Y.) and Know Your Faith writer, "From Nothing to Something: Prayer, Growth, Touch."

Also addressing institute participants will be Monsignor Geno Baroni of the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs; Dr. Francoise Darcy-Berube of the University of Montreal; Dr. Benjamin Garrison of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Illinois; Father James DiGiacomo, S.J., of Fordham University; Dr. Mary Jule Durkin, Chicago author and teacher; Father John Hardon, S.J., New York lecturer and author; Mrs. Mary Reed Newland, author and religious education coordinator; Dr. Michael Novak, authority on ethnic affairs, and his wife, Karen Novak, author and lecturer; and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, American Jewish Committee official.

Bishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, Cincinnati archdiocesan vicar for education, will celebrate the opening liturgy on Monday, June 14.

Father Angelo della Picca, chairman of the Mt. St. Joseph college theology department and director of the institute, said special arrangements would be made "as a service to religious educators" in the tri-state (Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky) area. "If 10 or more persons from one parish or school register at the same time, the $10 registration fee will be waived and non-credit tuition will be reduced from $30 to $25," he said.

Tuition for two undergraduate credits will be $60 and for two graduate credits, $70. Board and room will be $65.