



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 107, Folder 27, Sacred Heart University [Bridgeport, Conn.].

17 November 1977.



## Noted rabbi tapped for honors at SHU

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish committee and pioneering leader and scholar in interreligious relations and social justice movements, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at Sacred heart university Nov. 17 at 4 p.m. in the library lecture hall.

The academic convocation, which will include a statement by Rabbi Tanenbaum on violence in the contemporary world among Christians and Jews and a response by the Rev. Joseph O'Hare, editor-in-chief of America magazine is part of the university's month-long observance of Israeli heritage and is open to the public.

**UNDER RABBI** Tanenbaum's direction, the American Jewish committee has involved major Jewish scholars and religious leaders in national academic institutes and seminars with every major branch of Christendom.

He also served as co-chairman of the first International Colloquium on religion, land, nationalism, and peoplehood held at Hebrew university in 1970, and as co-chairman of the first International Colloquium on Judaism and Christianity at Harvard Divinity school in 1968.

He was the only rabbi present during the deliberations of Vatican Council II from 1962-65, where he was frequently consulted by Catholic authorities and Protestant observers about the substance of the historic Vatican Declaration.

Rabbi Tanenbaum was appointed in May, 1976, to serve as chairman of the Jewish-Christian Relations commission of the New York Board of Rabbis, which is comprised of 1,000 orthodox, conservative, and reform rabbis and is the oldest and largest rabbinic organization of its kind in the world.

It represents the religious and communal interests of the largest Jewish community in the world and cooperates closely with similar rabbinic organizations in practically every major center of Jewish population in the United States and in other parts of the world.



**MARCH TANENBAUM**

He has directed the landmark religious research studies examining intergroup content in Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish teaching materials in the United States, Italy, Spain, French-speaking countries, Germany and Latin America. These studies have been the basis of the revision of virtually all negative stereotypes in the textbooks produced in the 1970s.

**A MAJOR FORCE** in the promotion of social justice and human rights, Rabbi Tanenbaum helped organ-

ize the American Jewish Emergency Relief Effort for Victims of the Nigerian-Biafran Conflict; he is national co-chairman of the Interreligious Coalition on World Hunger, and national co-chairman of the Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry.

He was also a founder and program chairman of the historic National Conference on Religion and Race, which has been regarded as a turning point for the promotion of civil rights in the 1960s. He has served on various White House and United Nations commissions on children and aging, race relations, and food and population problems.

Rabbi Tanenbaum's essays and monographs on Jewish-Christian relations, and on religion, social justice and world community have been published in scholarly, religious, and general journals both here and abroad. He is a prize-winning weekly radio commentator over WINS-Westinghouse and has appeared numerous times on the NBC-Today Show and other major network programs.

BRIDGEPORT SUNDAY POST, November 6, 1977



*Jews 3 Copies  
Religion Values in  
Age of Violence*

December 16, 1977

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum  
Interreligious Affairs Department  
American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

We have had several requests for copies of the speech you delivered at Sacred Heart University on November 17, 1977, entitled "Jews and Christians in an Age of Violence".

Also, in remembrance of the University's Fifteenth Anniversary celebration, all the major addresses of the year will be collected and stored in the library archives for future reference.

Therefore, we would greatly appreciate a copy of your speech so that we might fulfill these requests.

Sincerely,

*Julia B. Dziuba*  
Julia B. Dziuba  
News Assistant

F → Sacred  
Heart  
University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 21, 1977

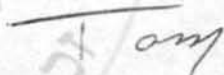
Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56 Street  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Marc:

It was great to have you on campus last Thursday for our honorary doctorate. Attached is a photo of a clip from the local newspaper.

With warmest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,



Thomas Patrick Melady  
President

TPM/jm





Post photo—Wayne Ratzenberger

## Rabbi given honorary SHU degree

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish committee, yesterday, delivered a major address at Sacred Heart university on the topic of "Jews and Christians in an Age of Violence," prior to the university conferring on him the honorary doctor of laws degree. From left, Dr. Thomas P. Melady, SHU president, Dr. Raoul a. DeVilliers, president of the University Senate, adjusting the hood of the degree, and Rabbi Tanenbaum.

## Jewish scholar honored

Sacred Heart university officials yesterday conferred an honorary doctor of laws degree on Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish committee, following a major address in the library lecture hall.

Rabbi Tanenbaum, who spoke on the topic, "Jews and Christians in an Age of Violence," received the honorary degree in recognition of his work in interreligious relations and social justice movements.

Also following his address, was a response by the Rev. Joseph A. O'Hare, SJ, editor-in-chief of "America." Rabbi Tanenbaum's address was part of the university's month-long observance of Israeli heritage.

Under Rabbi Tanenbaum's direction, the American Jewish committee has involved scholars and religious leaders in national academic institutes and seminars with every major branch of Christendom. He has been a major force in the promotion of social justice and human rights and helped organize the American Jewish Emergency Relief effort for victims of the Nigerian-Biafran conflict.

Rabbi Tanenbaum's essays and monographs on Jewish-Christian relations and on religion, social justice and world community have been published in scholarly, religious and general journals both here and abroad.

*Sacred Heart*

December 7, 1977

Mr. Philip J. Scharper  
Editor-in-Chief  
Orbis Books  
Maryknoll, New York 10545

My dear Philip,

How thoughtful and generous of you to write to me in connection with the lovely honor that Sacred Heart University recently accorded me.

I appreciate deeply the warm and generous feelings of friendship and affection which you and Sally have expressed over so many years which have meant so much to me. I reciprocate that love and respect as richly as I am capable of doing.

I would love to sit down and 'shbmooz' with you one of these days..

When you are next in New York, please let me know. It would be great fun to have lunch or a drink with you.

My warmest good wishes to Sally and your lovely family,

Cordially, as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

*bc. Zou Melala*



 Sacred  
Heart  
University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 10, 1977

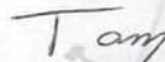
Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum  
Interreligious Affairs  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56 Street  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Marc:

Attached is a photo copy of the article in the newspaper about your forthcoming visit to our campus. I spoke to your secretary and she agrees that it might be easier for you if I arrange overnight accommodations. We are doing this and you should have no trouble in leaving at any time you want in the morning, as there are many trains going into New York City.

Looking forward to seeing you and with warm best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

  
Thomas Patrick Melady  
President

TPM/jm

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 24, 1977

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

Dear Marc:

I am writing first of all to confirm that we have reserved Thursday afternoon, November 17, as the date for our Jewish Catholic Program. All connected with it are delighted that you will give the major address on violence. We are lining up two respondents and I should have their names by the time you return from Israel.

Our current thinking is to have a program which runs as follows:

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. -- the program

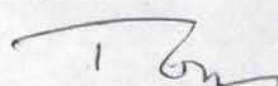
- A. Your address
- B. Two responses
- C. Comments

5:00 p.m. Honorary Degree ceremony

5:30 p.m. Reception.

With warm regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

  
Thomas Patrick Melady  
President

TPM/jm



*M. J. Felder*

Sacred  
Heart  
University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 11, 1977

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

Dear Marc:

I gave our Committee the good news that you are reserving Thursday, November 17, afternoon for our Jewish-Catholic program.

We will be back in touch with you when you return from your trip.

With warm regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*Tom*  
Thomas Patrick Melady  
President

TPM/jm

# AMERICA

106 WEST 56TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*Nota, call answer is yes  
Marc*

October 11, 1977

Dear Marc,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your Marquette Theology Lecture. I look forward to reading it. I am sure it will be good background for our discussion on November 17 in Bridgeport. Shall I assume that your remarks on that occasion will be substantially the same as the content of this lecture?

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Joe O'Hare*

Joseph A. O'Hare, S.J.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
Interreligious Affairs Department  
American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, NY 10022



## Tanenbaum, Owens, To Receive Honorary Degrees From SHU

Bridgeport — A prominent Jewish religious leader and a local educator will receive honorary degrees from Sacred Heart University next week.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of New York, interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, will receive an honorary doctorate of laws at an academic convocation Thursday, Nov. 17, at 4 P.M. in the university library.

William J. Owens of Stratford, president of the Bridgeport Engineering Institute, will be awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters Friday, Nov. 18, at 8 P.M., at the university library.

Rabbi Tanenbaum's degree will be conferred as part of Sacred Heart University's month-long Israeli heritage observance. Father Joseph O'Hare, SJ, editor-in-chief of America magazine, will speak at the convocation.

The Jewish clergyman has long been a national leader in interreligious affairs. In addition to promoting Christian-Jewish relations, he has been in the forefront of social justice efforts.

Mr. Owens, president of Bridgeport Engineering Institute since



RABBI TANENBAUM

1970, in addition to his accomplishments in the education field, has been a leader in area Boy Scout activities and community affairs for many years.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 18, 1977

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56 Street  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Marc:

The Trustees of Sacred Heart University have unanimously approved my recommendation that, as part of its 15th anniversary the honorary Doctor of Laws degree be conferred upon you. It would be a great honor for us to have you accept our honorary doctorate.

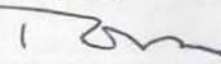
We could thus plan to begin the program on Thursday, November 17, at 4:00 p.m. with the conferring of the honorary doctorate. Your paper on violence would come immediately after the conferring of the degree. Father O'Hare would follow you with comments.

The program would follow (around 5:30 p.m.) with a reception. Margaret and I want to give a dinner in your honor starting around 7:00 p.m. We would plan to invite 30 Catholic and Jewish leaders to the dinner.

I will phone you on Friday about these arrangement.

With warm regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

  
Thomas Patrick Melady  
President

TPM/jm



*M. J. Felder*

October 24, 1977

Dr. Thomas Patrick Melady  
President  
Sacred Heart University  
P.O.B. 6460  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606

My dear Tom,

I have just returned from an extended lecture tour at the U.S. Air Force Academy, the University of Denver, and Fuller Theological Seminary in California, and therefore have not been able to respond to your wonderful letter of Oct. 18th and to your telephone calls.

I am deeply moved by your thoughtful and generous gesture of friendship in conferring on me an honorary doctorate of law degree on Nov. 17th. I accept with gratitude and humble appreciation.

All the plans you indicate about dinner, etc., are entirely acceptable.

It may be of interest to you that this past year marked my 25th year of service in promoting improved Jewish-Catholic relations in this country and abroad. Thus, your degree will mark a turning point in my career.

During my just-concluded lecture tour, I was introduced on two occasions as "The Human Rights Rabbi of America," and that meant a great deal to me. As you know from our work together, and as documented in my bio sketch, I have been working for human rights and justice for Jews everywhere, but also for Ibos in Nigeria, Christians in Uganda, Christians and Muslims in Lebanon, Catholics and Protestants in Ireland (the Peace People are working with me on an economic project for Ireland), for Greek Orthodox in Cyprus, Bihari Muslims in Bangladesh, and for all Christians and Jews in the Soviet Union and elsewhere. Your degree puts all that concern and labor in focus.



Dr. Thomas Patrick Melady

Page Two

Forgive the immodesty, I would appreciate it if your press releases reflected some of these matters, and I would love to see them go to the Times, AP, UPI, RNS, and JTA, and NC. Perhaps a request for a feature interview with you, on your book, and me might find some interest, especially with A.M. Rosenthal and Ken Briggs of the Times. Talk with you soon.

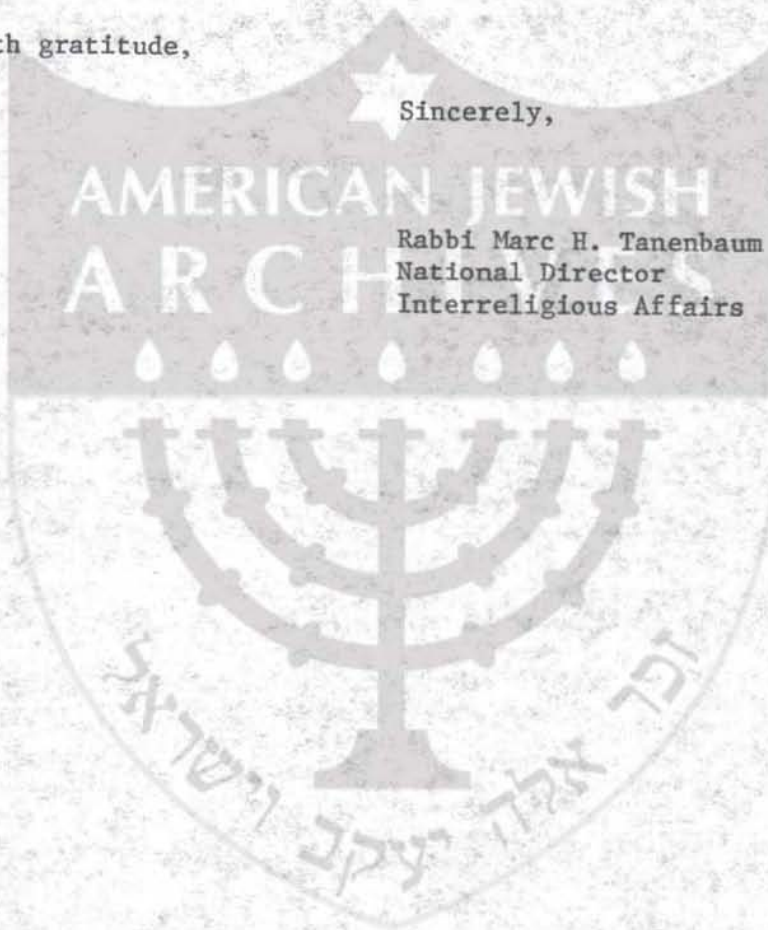
Again, with gratitude,

Sincerely,

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCH

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR





Sacred  
Heart  
University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

*Send  
unreligious  
Age of  
Violence  
to  
Ymbr. sent 10/3/77*

September 23, 1977

Rev. Joseph O'Hare  
America  
106 West 56 Street  
New York, NY 10019

Dear Joe:

Thank you very much for accepting our invitation to be the respondent to the address that will be given by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum on Thursday, November 17 at our mid-afternoon symposium. This program will be part of our 15th anniversary series and will be co-sponsored by a number of Catholic and Jewish organizations in Connecticut.

Marc's address will be concerned with the overall problem of violence and what the Judaic-Christian response should be. You would be the one respondent to Marc's address and there would be time for some discussion. Following that, there will be a reception for all attending. As the program firms up, I will send you more details.

Looking forward to seeing you then, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Thomas Patrick Melady  
President

TPM/jm

Fy

Sacred  
Heart  
University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 18, 1977

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56 Street  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Marc:

The Trustees of Sacred Heart University have unanimously approved my recommendation that, as part of its 15th anniversary the honorary Doctor of Laws degree be conferred upon you. It would be a great honor for us to have you accept our honorary doctorate.


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I will phone you on Friday about these arrangements.

With warm regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

  
Thomas Patrick Melady  
President

TPM/jm

*Marc —  
Congratulations  
Bill*