



Howard W. Cannon
U.S. Senator

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A Gallant Priest

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

The American Roman Catholic priest with the longest record of what is now called ecumenism is Father George B. Ford, of New York City.

Still exuberant at 85, Father Ford has recently produced his autobiography. It is a thrilling book called "A Degree of Difference," published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Don't start reading this book too late at night because you won't get much sleep. To read Father Ford is like being with him; you are fascinated by his good humor, his courtliness and his ability to get right down to the bedrock of complex issues.

Long before interfaithing was popular, Fr. Ford was the lone voice and the daring trail-blazer of the cause of interreligious amity.

It was his lot to be part of a diocese where overtures to non-Catholics were tabu. The strictures on his freedom did not deter him from reaching out his hands and mingling with Protestants and Jews in all kinds of good causes.

Punished again and again for his rebellious friendliness which has now become commonplace among Roman Catholic divines, Fr. Ford never publicly condemned his oppressors. But privately he registered his strong dissent against the narrow outlook which then prevailed. He resigned his church post several times and once was offered a high-ranking place in the Episcopal Church; the bearer of the offer was the late Bishop James Pike.

Father Ford is now loaded down with honors. He has been saluted by Columbia University and a host of Protestant and Jewish groups. Most Catholics also acknowledge now that what he endured in his private Gethsemanes was the prelude to a brighter ecumenic situation.

And now all of us have been served an intellectual and emotional feast by this brave and brilliant man. We're lucky!

NEW YORK: — Mrs. Lucy Broido, wife of Louis Broido, Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, died December 7, 1969, in her home in New York. She was 65 years old.

WASHINGTON — A photo contest on the land, activities and people of Israel was announced by B'nai B'rith. Rules and entry forms may be obtained for \$1 from Israel Photo Contest, Klutznick Exhibit Hall, 1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington D.C. 20036.

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