

CONVOCAION OF CHRISTIAN AND JEWISH THEOLOGAINS

NEW YORK - The fifth anniversary of the Conciliar Statement on the Jews issued by the Second Vatican Council on October 28, 1965, will be observed at a major religious and academic Convocation of Christian and Jewish theologians and scholars from the United States, Europe and Israel. The Convocation will take place October 25-28 at Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.

Under the co-chairmanship of Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher, Director of Seton Hall's Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies, and Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee, the meeting will seek to evaluate the impact that the Conciliar Statement on non-Christian religions has had on Catholic-Jewish relations during the past five years, and identify future needs and directions. Papers and panels will also probe the relationship of Judaism as a universal religion to the particularities of the Jewish people and the land of Israel.

Underscoring the importance with which world Catholic authorities view the Convocation, two of the Catholic participants are coming from Europe for the express purpose of delivering major addresses. They are the Rev. Cornelius A. Rijk, Director of the Vatican Office for Catholic-Jewish Relations, and Dr. Charlotte Klein, Director of the Center for Biblical and Jewish Studies of our Lady of Zion Order in London.

A mong the Jewish participants will be Dr. Uriel Tal, Professor of Modern Jewish History at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Dr. Shmaryahu Talmon, Professor of History at Hebrew University, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Professor of Jewish Ethics and Mysticism at Jewish Theological Seminary, and Dr. Irving Greenberg, Professor of Modern History at Yeshiva University.

In a joint statement, explaining the significance of the Convocation to interreligious understanding, Rabbi Tanenbaum and Monsignor Oesterreicher declared:

"In the perspective of 1900 years of Jewish-Chris-

tian history, the promulgation of the Conciliar Statement on the Jews five years ago is to be considered as a monumental achievement and a turning point toward improved relations between Catholics and Jews all over the world.

"The declaration became a new foundation on which has already been erected substantial accomplishment in uncovering the sources of anti-Semitism and in establishing the basis for deepened mutual understanding and respect between Christians and Jews.

"An anniversary is a time to look back, to count one's blessings and to take stock. Our convocation hopes to do all this, but we would like to do more. We intend to look forward, to evaluate our unmet needs, to move ahead on the path of theological understanding and mutual acceptance. Thus we have given the Convocation the title, 'Toward a Theology of Israel'."



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