

**SEMINAR**

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of our constituents."

The noted Jewish ecumenist also pointed out "the Vatican statement on the Jews has become the text around which an oral and written tradition has begun to develop, which in many ways has gone beyond the original declaration."

He cited especially the guidelines of the American Catholic Bishop on Catholic-Jewish relations, which, he said, "have not only spoken clearly on such crucial issues as the rejection of proselytism, the uprooting of anti-Semitism in the teaching process, the overcoming of all polemics about the Pharisees, the law versus the Gospel, and so on; they have also sparked the creation of local ecumenical and interreligious commissions in dozens of dioceses around the country, and the establishment of interreligious groups in numerous communities throughout the nation."

Rabbi Tanenbaum noted that "there is a major movement in the religious communities, as well as in Government, education and voluntary activity, toward decentralization of programming toward the local communities," and added that such decentralization would require a large body of well-informed laymen as well as clergy.

SETON HALL, N.J. — In an urgent plea to "all Catholics — theologians, preachers, teachers and, above all, parents," the most Rev. Francis J. Mugavero, Bishop of Brooklyn and Episcopal Moderator of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Catholic Bishops Conference, exhorted them "to do all in their power that those in their care do not see Jews in a distorted light, that on the contrary, they learn to meet Jews with justice, respect and affection."

Bishop Mugavero was the final speaker at the closing luncheon of a major four-day interreligious convocation at Seton Hall University here, which brought together leading Catholic, Protestant and Jewish theologians and scholars from Europe, Israel and the United States. The convocation was under the joint sponsorship of Seton Hall's Institute of the Judeo-Christian Studies and the American Jewish Committee. The lunch meeting was chaired by Bertram H. Gold, Executive Vice President of the American Jewish Committee.

The convocation commemorated the fifth anniversary of

the Vatican's Conciliar Statement on the Jews, in which the Catholic Church repudiated anti-Semitism and rejected the charge of Jewish collective guilt for the crucifixion. The statement was promulgated five years ago today.

Commenting on the importance of the convocation and of the Conciliar Statement, Bishop Mugavero said:

"Your convocation was more than an anniversary observance. It is a witness to the living power of the Conciliar Statement. Even though its implementation is not everywhere and in every way what it ought to be, even though I deplore the slowness with which some Catholics have responded to the summons of the Council, the Statement has nonetheless proved itself a creative force."

The Bishop expressed gratitude to the convocation's speakers "for trying to make us see again the great Jewish canvas on which the figure of Jesus appears, the fabric on which His Gospel is inscribed. We owe them thanks, too, for showing us Judaism as a genuine well of grace, joy, and peace, of righteousness, mercy and hope; in the fullest sense of the word, a way of life."

"If we accept with Martin Buber that 'life is meeting', we must learn to care more for each other. This means, as Rabbi Tanenbaum said two days ago, that Jews must be concerned about the need of Christians. Agreeing with Drs. Irving Greenberg and Charlotte Klein, who spoke to us on the theological dimensions of the State of Israel, I would say that this means for Christians that their eyes must be on Israel, that token of God's fidelity, that banner of the permanence of the Jewish people."

Rabbi Rudin declared that the convocation had given evidence to a new spirit now being expressed by many scholars and religious leaders around the world.

"It is more than the Conciliar spirit," he said. "It is a post-Conciliar spirit, with open agendas. There is no more room for private and secret agendas. All issues are now open for discussion, and on a deeper level than ever before."

Among the issues that must be discussed and resolved by scholars and theologians today, he listed "the continuing validity of Judaism as a living religion; a growing appreciation by Jews of Christianity as a living faith; the security of the people and the State of Israel; the issues of Jewish and

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Catholic parochial schools in the United States, and the uses of religious power on public morality questions."

A primary concern of all religious leaders, he added, must be "how to transmit this new spirit out to the people, in the face of apathy or actual resistance in certain quarters."

In this morning's session on the "theological dimensions on the State of Israel from a Christian Viewpoint," Dr. Charlotte Klein of Frankfurt University and Director of the Center for Biblical and Jewish Studies of our Lady of Zion Order in London, declared

"If the State of Israel serves today as a reminder to Jews that they are to remain Jews, it reminds Christians even more forcefully that Judaism is a living reality. It is a sign we Christians needed, a condemnation of our pseudo-theology of Judaism which goes back to at least the second century of our era. Never again must we impose upon the phenomenon of Israel our preconceived notions as to the meaning of its destiny. The Jewish people are capable of being their own interpreters."



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