

# DISTINGUISHED PRIEST RECIPIENT OF ISAIAH AWARD

WASHINGTON -- The Rev. Edward H. Flannery, who served for ten years as Executive-Secretary of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, was credited by the American Jewish Committee with having played a decisive role in shaping the excellent relationship that exists currently between the Catholic and Jewish communities.

Father Flannery was the recipient of the Isaiah Award of AJC's Washington Chapter which cited him as a "distinguished priest, fighter for justice, friend of the Jewish people, servant of humanity."

The presentation was made by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, AJC's National Director of Interreligious Affairs, at the chapter's annual meeting which took place at a luncheon at the Shoreham Hotel here.

In accepting the award, Father Flannery took the occasion to refute a charge recently made by the Rev. Andrew Greeley, well known priest-sociologist, to the effect that there was a growing sense of anti-Catholicism in the Jewish community.

Referring to this accusation, Father Flannery stated: "I have listened to this with a certain chagrin and kept my silence, but now I want to break it."

"I take my hat off to no Christian as to knowledge and experience of the Jewish community in the United States, and I have been amazed by the lack of anti-Catholicism in the American Jewish community. Anyone who knew what has happened to Jews in history at the hands of Christians would be amazed, as I am, by the paucity of anti-Catholic feeling there.

"I believe the persecution of Jews is the greatest persecution in history -- 23 centuries long. Any sociologist who deals with the present time cannot understand his data unless he becomes a historian and understands how the present situation came to pass. This, of course, applies to Father Greeley, the priest critic of the Jewish community to whom I am referring."

"I am very much opposed," Father Flannery



REV. FLANNERY

continued, "to what I call reciprocalism in the Jewish - Christian dialogue. Again, it is only

## DINITZ SAYS ISRAEL CREATES PEACE MOVE

WASH. (WNS) -- "There is no greater lie than that Israel is sitting by without creating initiatives" for a peace settlement in the Middle East, Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz told a luncheon meeting during the 17th annual conference of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee.

He asserted that Israel had made two initiatives but the Arabs have not responded to either. One was to convene the Geneva conference on the basis of its initial terms agreed upon by the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Nations Secretary General. But now, according to Dinitz, some want

the Palestine Liberation Organization invited and Israel will not accept it.

He said Israel's second initiative was to end the state of war and see if normalization and lack of suspicion could materialize in time and lead to a "full and positive peace."

the Christian who is ignorant of history who will ask for strict reciprocity from the Jewish part of the dialogue, asking that something be granted for anything conceded. As the dialogue matures, a natural reciprocity will grow, but it should grow of itself and must never be forced. In our relations, there is still a heavy debt on the Christian community, and therefore it is premature for us to be making demands in the dialogue. We have still to prove fully our genuine commitment to dialogue and to our appreciation of Judaism and Jewry."

Among those present at the luncheon were Msgr. Clemente Faccani, Charge of the Apostolic Delegation to the United States, who presented the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Jean Jadot, who is on a visit to Rome; Bishop James Rausch, General Secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and of the U.S. Catholic Conference, who pronounced the benediction; and Urika Berger, Assistant Director of the Institute for Church and Judaism, Berlin, Germany, representing the Rev. William L. Weiler, Executive Director of the Office on Christian-Jewish Relations of the National Council of Churches.

In his presentation speech, Rabbi Tanenbaum stated that the improvement in relationships between Catholics and Jews since the conclusion of Vatican Council II in 1965 had been "greater, deeper and wider than at any other period in the nineteen centuries of the Jewish - Christian encounter."

He described Father Flannery as the "golden pivot wheel of that historic movement."

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