TOWARD GREATER UNDERSTANDING

*Essays in Honor of John Cardinal O’Connor*

Edited by Anthony J. Cernera

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At a special private audience with Pope John Paul II on Thursday, April 28, 1994, are, from left to right, Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore; Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz, Administrator of the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding; Dr. Anthony J. Cenbera, President of Sacred Heart University; Pope John Paul; Rabbi Jack Bemporad, Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding; Father Remi Hoeckman, O.P., Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews; and Cardinal John O'Connor of New York.
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Preface

The Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding of Sacred Heart University celebrates His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor's seventy-fifth birthday with the publication of this Festschrift. Included in this volume, the first publication of the Sacred Heart University Press, are essays by Rabbi Jack Bemporad, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Edward Idris Cardinal Cassidy, President Chaim Herzog, William H. Cardinal Keeler, Bernard Cardinal Law, Professor David Novak, Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, Professor Elie Wiesel, and Rabbi Walter S. Wurzburger. Such an impressive list of persons is a fitting testimony to a remarkable man.

In so honoring Cardinal O'Connor, an honorary alumnus of the University, Sacred Heart University wishes to acknowledge publicly the significant contributions that he has made to human culture and especially to the furtherance of dialogue between Christians and Jews. Capturing the spirit as well as the letter of the Second Vatican Council, Cardinal O'Connor has sought to inspire and encourage these two great religious
traditions to deepen their understanding and respect for each other. In addition, he has played a leading role in finding concrete ways for Christians and Jews to bring their great wisdom to bear on the contemporary problems facing humanity.

Catholic universities and Jewish institutions have a special responsibility in fostering and nurturing this dialogue and cooperation. Sacred Heart University has sought to play its role in this critical work primarily through its Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding.

The Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding is an educational and research division of Sacred Heart University. It draws together clergy, laity, scholars, theologians, and educators in various modes of interaction to focus on current religious thinking within Christianity and Judaism. While each tradition reevaluates attitudes toward the other, the Center fosters the exploration of the major philosophical and theological issues on the frontier of Christian-Jewish dialogue as these are formulated by scholars at the international and national levels.

Cardinal O’Connor has taken a personal interest in the work of the Center as well as in the general mission of Sacred Heart University. His attention and concern have made a critical difference to us as we chart our course into the future and seek to fulfill our mission to the world. For this help we are deeply grateful. This Festschrift is a small way for the University to say “thank you” and “ad multos annos.”

A special word of thanks is due to Brother William J. Martyn, S.A. for his role in shaping this project at the beginning and to Dr. Sidney Gottlieb for his efforts in bringing it to completion.

Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D.
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