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Presentation of Nostra Aetate Award to Edward Idris Cardinal Cassidy

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Cover Page Footnote

Jonathan O'Herron is managing director of Lazard Freres and Co., LLC.

JONATHAN O'HERRON

*Presentation of Nostra Aetate Award
to Edward Idris Cardinal Cassidy*

Rabbi Ehrenkranz, Cardinal Cassidy, Rabbi Greenberg, Rabbi Lincoln, Dr. Cernera, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I feel privileged to be here this evening, to be part of this courageous group that is building interreligious understanding and a secure peace between religions. Thank you so much for inviting me.

Several years ago, we were at a dinner where Cardinal John O'Connor sat at an adjoining table. The most distinguished radio announcer and television announcer of the New York Yankees passed away. Mel was a member of Rabbi Ehrenkranz' congregation in Stamford, Connecticut. I asked Rabbi Ehrenkranz, ``Rabbi, wouldn't it be wonderful if St. Patrick's Cathedral would honor Mel Allen?" And he said, ``Do you think you could make that deal?" And I said, ``Give me a second."

So I went a few tables over and I asked John Cardinal O'Connor, ``Your Eminence, would you be willing to have St. Patrick's Cathedral used as a memorial for Mel Allen?" He said, ``Done. Just have somebody call my office to arrange a date."

Several weeks later, St. Patrick's Cathedral was filled to capacity, with Rabbi Ehrenkranz and John Cardinal O'Connor presiding over a wonderful tribute to the great Yankee announcer. So a tribute here to our dear friend, Rabbi Ehrenkranz. Cardinal O'Connor and our dear friend Rabbi Ehrenkranz are people of vision and they have the courage to make great things happen.

We honor another man of vision tonight, His Eminence Edward Idris Cardinal Cassidy, who is president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and of the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. Cardinal Cassidy has done great things. He has served the Church in many capacities and has received all kinds of degrees and honors because he is a man of faith and a leader of integrity.

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Your Eminence, Cardinal Cassidy, would you kindly come forward to receive your award? Cardinal Cassidy is fluent in several languages. Most important, in every language he is able to say the words that the world desperately needs to hear: words of peace, understanding, and friendship. You have read about him and I think we should now stand with him and have him accept this marvelous *Nostra Aetate* Award on behalf of the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding of Sacred Heart University.