



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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October 2, 1962

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director
National Catholic Welfare Conference
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear George:

Let me re-assert my warm congratulations on your designation as a theologian to the forthcoming Ecumenical Council. Despite your modesty and disclaimers, this is a superlative recognition of your great gifts which those of us who have been privileged to know you have long recognized and applauded. For the American Jewish Committee and for myself personally, I wish for Providential care over you and your associates during this period of your important deliberations. With regard to the matter that we discussed over the telephone, I am enclosing several pieces of literature which describe our concerns. As you rightly indicated, there undoubtedly will arise opportunities for informal discussion of the resolution condemning anti-Semitism and your own personal conviction communicated to many others can be of inestimable value. Your generous and spontaneous offer to respond to such reports is in itself most heartening, and we are grateful for it.

The Director of our European Office, Zachariah Shuster of Paris, will be in Rome in connection with the Chair on Intergroup Relations which we support at Pro Deo University. May I take the liberty of asking him to seek you out, keeping in mind, of course, that you will be greatly preoccupied with your official duties.

With warmest good wishes and Godspeed on your journey.

Cordially as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director
Interreligious Affairs Department

MHT:fb

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October 4, 1962

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
Director
Interreligious Affairs Department
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York 22, New York

Dear Marc:

Thanks ever so much for your gracious message of congratulations on my appointment as one of the so-called "experts" for the forthcoming Council. I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing.

Thanks, too, for the welcome material enclosed in your letter of October 2. I will take this material with me to Rome and will be on the lookout for opportunities to put it to the best possible use. Needless to say, I would welcome an opportunity to chat with the Director of your European office, Mr. Shuster, during the course of the Council.

With renewed thanks and every best wish I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director

S

December 18, 1962

Mr. Zachariah Schuster
American Jewish Committee
Rue La Boetie
Paris 8, France

Dear Zach:

This is just a brief note to tell you how much I enjoyed our occasional visits in Rome during the course of the first session of the Council and to express the hope that we will have many more get-togethers in the future. I enjoyed our conversation very much.

Be sure to send me copies of any articles or releases on the Council which you think I ought to see.

If we can be of any assistance to you from this end of the line, please don't hesitate to call on us.

Written in great haste as I try desperately to clear my desk after such a long absence from Washington.

With every best wish I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Paris Office: 30, Rue La Boetie, Paris 8, France • Elysees 69-11, 83-63 • Cable: Wishcom, Paris • Zachariah Shuster, European Director

December 29, 1962

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
National Catholic Welfare Conference
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington 5, D.C.

Dear George:

Greetings and best wishes from Rome, where I am planning to celebrate the new year. But I must tell you right away that the city is no more the same as when we met: it looks rather subdued and it is not the colorful place of the time of the Ecumenical Council, though its grandeur is not missed for a minute.

I am happy to tell you that among the most delightful experiences of my last visit to Rome were my few and too short meetings with you. In addition to our conversation on serious topics, your presence put me into a frame of mind which produced real relaxation and intimacy. As far as Prof. Gasparini's (?) diagnosis is concerned and the reports in the Italian press about it, this goes on in the same way as when we were here together. It seems that he again arrived from Bologna on an unexpected train and the question is still one of why this fellow does not arrive on trains scheduled according to Il Tempo's schedules. You might also like to hear the latest story told in Rome about our mutual friend Cardinal Ottaviani. The story is that every morning after he gets up instead of saying "Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa" he now says "Bea culpa, etc."

I do hope George, that before long we shall meet again and that we shall have more time to spend together during the forthcoming session of the Ecumenical Council which I hope both of us shall be following from here.

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You'll be interested to know that the purpose of my present visit to Rome was to take part in an audience granted by Cardinal Bea to a group of American Jewish Committee leaders. We had a wonderful conversation with him yesterday. He was in excellent spirit and in an optimistic mood with regard to the outcome of the Ecumenical Council. Everyone of us was deeply impressed by the clarity of vision, the wisdom and the precision of thought of this great statesman of the Church.

Thanks I have not forgotten my promise to send you articles on the Council which appeared in the European publications and which in my opinion would be of interest to you. As a token, I am enclosing herewith one article which I personally enjoyed very much and the author of which is the well known Father Jean Danielou, published in the weekly Figaro Litteraire. I liked this article not so much because of the factual content, which is known to us, but for the neat, elegant and gallic way with which Father Danielou summarized the first session of the Council. I hope you'll enjoy it as much as I did. I expect to send you soon some other material.

I appreciate very much your gracious invitation to call upon you whenever you can be of any assistance. I shall certainly be in touch with you at any time I feel we need your advice and help.

I assume that you are aware of the invitation extended to Cardinal Bea by the Divinity School of Harvard University. The Cardinal informed us that he has accepted this invitation and that he will deliver three lectures. He is planning to arrive in the United States on March 27. At the same time, it is also being planned to arrange an agape either in New York or in Boston, and under the auspices of both Cardinals Cushing and Spellman. This will show you that your advice to Pro Deo on this matter was taken into consideration.

I also miss in Rome these days our friend Malachi, who disappeared from Rome for unknown destinations for the holidays. In the language of the Italian press one might pose the following question: Ok, he is entitled to a rest, but why the mystery? I hope that 1963 will bring us an adequate reply to this momentous question.

And now, at the very end of this great year, I have real pleasure in extending to you my best wishes for a healthy, happy and successful new year, and for a reunion in Washington, Paris and Rome.

Cordially yours,



Zachariah Shuster

January 4, 1963

Mr. Zachariah Shuster
The American Jewish Committee
30, Rue La Boetie
Paris 8, France

Dear Zach:

Thanks very much for your gracious letter of December 29.
It was good to hear from you again.

I am disturbed to learn that Dr. Gasbarini is still refusing to play ball with the Roman newspapers. Wouldn't you think that he could just as easily take the train that they expect him to take? On the other hand, if he were to go along with them in this regard, they wouldn't have anything to speculate about, and their last state would be worse than their first.

I enjoyed the latest story about Cardinal Ottaviani.
I will have to start making a collection of these quips.

The Danielou article which you were kind enough to enclose in your letter is extremely well done. I greatly enjoyed reading it. I will be very grateful for additional material on the Council which you may be able to send me as time goes on.

Remind me to reprimand Malachi for disappearing from Rome so mysteriously. He is getting to be as bad as Dr. Gasbarini.

I am sure I don't have to tell you that there is a good deal of excitement in Catholic circles about the forthcoming visit of Cardinal Bea. I just hope that they don't overwork the poor old man. My impression is that a number of bishops in the East are going to try to persuade him to speak in their dioceses before he returns to Rome.

With renewed thanks for your kind letter and with every best wish for the New Year I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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January 23, 1963

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director
National Catholic Welfare Conference
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington 5, D.C.

Dear George:

I very much appreciated your letter of January 4, and I hope that you have succeeded in taking care of the tremendous amount of work which I imagine has accumulated during your absence.

I visited Rome twice recently, and had good conversations with some of our mutual friends. I was delighted to make the acquaintance of Father Stransky, of the Secretariat for Christian Unity, who asked me to convey his greetings to you. I found him to be very alert, energetic and "ready to fight." I was also glad to find that our friend Malachi has turned up in Rome again, and that it was possible to have many good talks and fun with him. It seems that he was away for a short time in England, for health reasons, but is now back in Rome and as active as ever.

You probably know that a delegation of American Jewish Committee leaders met with Cardinal Bea on December 28. He was in very good spirit and talked with expectation about his forthcoming visit to the U.S. He told us that the program for this visit is being arranged by Cardinals Cushing and Spellman. I do hope that you will have a chance to meet with him and his assistant, Father Schmidt; and also that you will be able to take part in the Agape.

During my recent visit to Rome I have not heard of any significant developments in connection with the Ecumenical Council. I was told, however, that the job of redrafting the schemata and reducing the 70 odd number of them to about 20 will require a colossal amount of work. It is for this reason that some of those involved in this work believe that it will be necessary

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to have a third session of the Council, to take place some time in 1964. You probably know that the Central Coordinating Commission is planning to have its first session in the next few days.

I have come across some of the comments on the Council which appeared in several European countries; but thus far have not seen anything of particular significance. I must say, however, that the Italian illustrated weeklies have done an excellent job in portraying the external aspects of the Council, and in a very picturesque manner. I am thinking particularly of the two articles in the magazine "Il Tempo," which tried to describe the setting and procedure of the Council sessions dealing with the problem of liturgy. Of course, I am not in a position to say whether these reports are accurate; but I found them interesting reading, and I am enclosing them herewith.

One amusing bit of information for me was the fact that one of the two bars in St. Peter's Basilica was called Bar Jonah, and the reason for it was that Jonah was the father of Peter and, as you know, "bar" is the Hebrew word for son. (You know, of course, the term Bar-mitzvah.) By the way, my scholarly friends in Rome tell me that the name of Peter's father is mentioned only once in the New Testament. They also say that the other bar was called Barabba, which is also a Hebrew word meaning the son of the father.

At any rate, you may be sure that I shall not fail to send you any material of importance I will come across in my readings. Meanwhile, with all good wishes and looking forward to seeing you soon,

Cordially yours,



Zachariah Shuster

Enclosures

S

February 6, 1963

Mr. Zachariah Shuster
The American Jewish Committee
30 Rue La Boetie
Paris 8, France

Dear Zach:

Thanks ever so much for your welcome letter of January 23 and the enclosed articles from Il Tempo. It was good to hear from you again.

I have had several letters from Malachy during the past few weeks. He seems to be as zippy as ever after his brief sojourn in England. As you probably know, he is hoping to set up a press analysis office, the purpose of which would be to exegete the articles on the Council in all of the leading Italian and French newspapers and magazines. This strikes me as being a worthwhile project.

I saw quite a bit of Mark Tannenbaum during our recent National Conference on Religion and Race in Chicago, which, by the way, was one of the most successful interracial meetings ever held in the United States and by all odds the most important inter-faith get-together.

Rumor has it that efforts are being made to sign up Cardinal Bea for a public address in Washington during his forthcoming visit to the United States. I hope that these rumors are well founded.

Anything that you can send us on the Council will be deeply appreciated.

With renewed thanks for your welcome letter and kindest personal regards I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director



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June 11, 1963

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director
National Catholic Welfare Conference
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear George:

May I tell you how profound is our grief over the loss of Pope John XXIII, whose passing leaves all of us bereft. Our prayers join yours to our common God that He bless the eternal soul of this great and holy Pontiff whose presence was a benediction to the entire human family.

In the words of the Jewish tradition, "May his soul be bound to us in the bond of life, and may you be comforted with all who mourn among the human family."

Enclosed are copies of two articles which I was privileged to contribute to AVE MARIA and to WORLDVIEW regarding the life and works of Pope John. I thought that you might find these of some interest.

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director
Interreligious Affairs Department

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T

June 17, 1963

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director
Interreligious Affairs Department
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street
New York 22, New York

Dear Marc:

Thanks ever so much for your thoughtful letter of condolence on the death of Pope John XXIII and for your kindness in sending me articles about the Holy Father in Ave Maria and Worldview. I am deeply grateful for this favor.

I hope you enjoyed the New York conference as much as I did.

Written in great haste as I prepare to leave town for a series of speaking engagements.

With renewed thanks and every best wish I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director

February 17, 1964

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
165 West 56th Street
New York 22, New York

Dear Marc:

This is just a brief note to thank you very sincerely for the documents which accompanied your welcome letter of February 10 and to tell you and Zack how much I enjoyed my get-to-gether with you at the Biltmore on Friday morning.

The enclosed news releases will be self-explanatory. I will keep you posted on further developments.

With every best wish, I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director

May 15, 1964

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York 22, New York

Dear Marc:

At your convenience, would you be kind enough to send me some reliable statistical information about the extent of the Nazi persecution and massacre of the Jews of Europe. If possible, please send information from non-Jewish sources. I need this material as ammunition in a private little war I am carrying on with a friend of mine who, even at this late date, continues to argue, against all of the evidence, that the extent of the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis has been greatly exaggerated.

Written in great haste as I prepare to leave for a series of meetings in Colorado.

With every best wish I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director



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May 20, 1964

Rt. Reverend Monsignor George G. Higgins
Director
National Catholic Welfare Conference
1312 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear George:

Thank you for your interesting letter of May 15.

Enclosed are several documents from non-Jewish sources,
in the main, which I think will serve the purpose that you
describe.

If I can be of any additional help please let me know.
Warm regards.

Cordially,

Marc
Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director
Interreligious Affairs Department

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June 1, 1964

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
Director
Interreligious Affairs Department
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street
New York 22, New York

Dear Marc:

Thanks ever so much for the very useful material enclosed in your welcome letter of May 20. I am deeply grateful for your kindness in supplying this material so promptly.

Hoping to see you soon.

With every best wish, I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director

June 4, 1964

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Marc:

I thought that you might be interested in the enclosed column by our good friend, John Sheerin. It is a hard-hitting piece. More power to Sheerin.

If possible, would you be kind enough to send me ten additional copies of the mimeographed excerpts from the address which you delivered on May 29 at the Annual Convention of the Catholic Press Association in Pittsburgh? Thanks in advance for your trouble.

With every best wish, I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director

Enclosure:
News Release



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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June 11, 1964

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
National Catholic Welfare Conference
1312 Massachusetts Avenue
N. W. Washington 5, D.C.

Dear George:

Frank
During my short visit in Indianapolis I met Ray Bosler, who conveyed to me the sad news that your father passed away. I then stopped in New York again for a short while and hurried back to Paris and Rome, from where I returned last night. This is therefore the first occasion I have to express my profound sympathy and commiseration for your great loss. It is always very difficult to find the proper words in a moment like this. There is still nothing better, I believe, than the words of Job, said at all funerals: "God has given, God has taken away, let His name be blessed from now to eternity."

Of course, while in Rome I was following matters of our concern. I found the situation rather somber and I am not very optimistic. While I have not heard anything definite with regard to what used to be Chapter V (religious liberty) the reports on the present state of what was formerly Chapter IV (attitude toward Jews) are rather disquieting.

It is believed that the plan is to eliminate what is considered by many, including myself, the heart of the matter, namely, the passage on the responsibility for the crucifixion. I hope you had occasion to discuss this matter with Cardinal Bea, on his recent visit to the U.S.

I regret very much that my short and hectic stay in New York did not permit me to visit you in Washington, as I intended to; but I look forward to seeing you soon again in Rome. Meanwhile, with warmest wishes,

Sincerely,

Zach

Zachariah Shuster

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June 19, 1964

Dear Zach:

Thanks ever so much for your gracious message of condolences on the death of my father. My mother and I and the other members of the family are deeply grateful for your welcome letter.

Please be assured that I am working very hard behind the scenes to prevent any watering down of Chapter IV. To my personal knowledge, a number of influential American bishops have already written to Rome about this matter, and I feel reasonably certain that they will be prepared to take the matter to the floor of the Council in September if this proves to be necessary. I will keep you posted on further developments.

I had a letter from Malachi a few days ago. As you undoubtedly know he is back in Rome.

With renewed thanks for your kind letter and every best wish I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins

Mr. Zachariah Shuster
The American Jewish Committee
30, Rue La Boetie
Paris 8, France

September 3, 1964

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 East 65 Street
New York 22, New York

Dear Marc:

Thanks ever so much for your welcome letter of August 26 with its very interesting and useful enclosures. I am sure I don't have to tell you that I share your attitude with regard to the revised Schema and that I will do everything I possibly can in Rome to persuade some of the key members of the American hierarchy to take the leadership in carrying on this fight to a successful conclusion.

I look forward with pleasure to seeing you in Rome in October. You can reach me at the following address:

Villanova
Viale Romania 7
Rome, Italy
Telephone: 870-274

With every best wish I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director

December 14, 1965

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

I apologize for my delay in acknowledging your three letters of October 28, November 1, and November 9. I should have sent you a reply from Rome, but, as you can well imagine, I was frightfully pressed for time during the final weeks of the Council, and consequently I fell hopelessly behind in my correspondence.

I didn't do anything about the Seattle matter referred to in your last two letters, the reason being that I am not very close to Archbishop Connolly (as a matter of fact, I have met him only once or twice) and therefore wasn't in a position to know how he would react if I approached him about his article in Northwest Progress. Frankly I think your people in Seattle would be better advised to take the matter up directly with the Archbishop as soon as he recovers from the Council.

As you can well imagine, I am terribly busy at the moment, but, as soon as I can catch my breath, I hope to have an opportunity to chat with you at considerable length about the work of our newly established Commission on Catholic-Jewish Relations. I will be in touch with you about this matter as soon as I can clear my desk. Meanwhile I am sure I don't have to tell you how much I appreciate the constructive tone of your recent statements on the Council Declaration on Catholic-Jewish Relations.

Written in great haste.

With every best wish I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director

P.S. I would appreciate it very much if you would be kind enough to send me copies of articles, reprints, etc., with reference to the Council's Declaration. Thanks in advance for your trouble.

G.G.H.



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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December 24, 1965

Monsignor George Higgins, Director
Social Action Department
National Catholic Welfare Conference
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear George:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter.

I plan to be in Washington on the morning of Thursday, January 6 for a luncheon meeting.

Would it be possible for us to meet earlier that morning say, about 11:00 A.M. or perhaps in the afternoon about 3:00-3:30?

My warmest good wishes for a joyous and enriching Christmas holiday.

Cordially,


Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director
Interreligious Affairs Department

MHT:fb

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December 30, 1965

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee ✓
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

In hurried reply to your welcome letter of December 24, I sincerely regret to inform you that it will be impossible for John Cronin and myself to meet with you in Washington on January 6. John will be in New Orleans that day for the Consecration of our first Negro Bishop, Bishop Perry, and I am scheduled to be in New York from the fifth to the eighth for a series of meetings at the Interchurch Center. Sorry about this conflict of dates, but such is life.

Here's hoping that we will be able to get together either in Washington or New York later on in January or sometime in February.

Unfortunately I missed your recent appearance on the Huntley-Brinkley show. I say "unfortunately", for a number of my relatives and friends in Chicago told me during the holidays that they had caught the show and that they enjoyed it very much.

With every best wish I remain,

Cordially yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Director