



NEWS

FILE
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DATE: November 4, 1981

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FATHER SHEERIN HONORED AT CHRISTIAN-JEWISH WORKSHOP

WASHINGTON--Father John B. Sheerin, C.S.P., consultant to the Bishops' Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations, has been honored for his "pioneering efforts in ecumenical and Christian-Jewish dialogue."

The award was given at the National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations, on the occasion of Father Sheerin's 75th birthday. It was presented by Dr. Richard Lux, Catholic co-chairman of the 6th annual workshop, at a banquet held at Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun in Milwaukee on Oct. 28.

In a brief address, Dr. Eugene Fisher, Executive Director of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations, called Father Sheerin "one of the greatest living pioneers of the Catholic Church in America in the field of ecumenism and Catholic-Jewish relations."

Dr. Fisher noted that Father Sheerin, with the late Father Gustave Weigel, S.J., was the first official Catholic observer ever to attend a World Council of Churches meeting, in Evanston, Illinois, in the 1950s.

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NATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

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2/Father Sheerin

"Even earlier, as Editor of the Catholic World, Father Sheerin was one of the first Catholic leaders in this country to raise his voice in sympathetic defense of the right of the State of Israel to exist securely and peacefully with its neighbors," Dr. Fisher stated. "His is a voice that has touched the consciences not only of Catholics but of all Christians, guiding us with prudence and courage toward meaningful dialogue with our Jewish brothers and sisters."

Father Sheerin, a Paulist, was editor of the Catholic World from 1948 to 1972. He was an expert at the Second Vatican Council and was chairman of the American Bishops' press panel during the second session of the Council in 1963. He has written numerous books and articles and is author of a syndicated column, "Sum and Substance," that appears in many diocesan newspapers.

Father Sheerin has served as general consultor to the Bishops' Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations since 1975.

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