



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CATHOLIC LEADERS PAY TRIBUTE
TO RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM**

WASHINGTON--Statements of tribute to the late Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, an internationally recognized leader in Christian-Jewish dialogue, were issued here by the Vice President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, by the NCCB General Secretary, and by officials of the NCCB Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

"In the passing of Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum I mourn the death of a dear friend, a native of Baltimore who became a passionate pioneer in interreligious endeavors," said Archbishop William H. Keeler, Vice President of the NCCB. "With great courage Rabbi Tanenbaum articulated a vision which touched many hearts on both sides of the Atlantic. We shall miss him and his counsel, so often expressed in terms of his deep religious faith."

Msgr. Robert N. Lynch, General Secretary of the NCCB and the United States Catholic Conference, said the Rabbi's life-long dedication to building bridges of understanding "made him a well-known figure and much appreciated friend in the Catholic world."

In a joint statement, Father John F. Hotchkin, Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the NCCB, and Dr. Eugene J. Fisher, Secretary for Catholic-Jewish Relations, said Rabbi Tanenbaum had helped to change the course of the history of Catholic-Jewish relations.

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"We shall miss his guidance and advice, his constructive criticism, and constantly innovative approaches to improving Jewish-Christian relations," they said.

Rabbi Tanenbaum, who attended the Second Vatican Council and who had served as executive vice president of the Synagogue Council of America and director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, died July 3 at age 66.

Following are the texts of the statements.

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