

**Cardinal William Henry Keeler to Receive Doctor of Humane Letters,
honoris causa, at Hebrew Union College-
Jewish Institute of Religion Graduation Ceremonies**

Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., President of the **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR)**, announced that he will present the Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, to **Cardinal William Henry Keeler, Archbishop Emeritus of Baltimore**. The degree will be granted at HUC-JIR's Cincinnati Graduation Ceremony. Communal leaders, relatives, and friends will gather at Isaac M. Wise Temple on June 7th for the Graduation Ceremonies of the 134th academic year.

Rabbi Ellenson said, "Cardinal Keeler's spiritual sensitivity and administrative wisdom have reached well beyond his own community, and his life has had for its hallmark a stirring commitment for furthering Catholic-Jewish dialogue. His guidance and expertise have served to strengthen the Catholic school system, and his leadership and integrity have served to build strong bridges of interfaith understanding."

Cardinal Keeler received a B.A. from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, in 1952. While studying at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, he was ordained to the priesthood on July 17, 1955. On July 24, 1979, Keeler was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Harrisburg and Titular Bishop of Ulcinium. Cardinal Keeler was named the seventh Bishop of Harrisburg on November 10, 1983, and then the fourteenth Metropolitan Archbishop of Baltimore on April 11, 1989. As Archbishop of Baltimore, Cardinal Keeler was head of America's oldest see and de facto Primate.

Cardinal Keeler was elected President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in November 1992. He also serves as Chairman of the Maryland Catholic Conference, Chair of the Board and Chancellor of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, as well as of Mount Saint Mary's University.

Cardinal Keeler developed a reputation for effectively building interfaith bonds, particularly for furthering Catholic-Jewish dialogue and serves as moderator of Catholic-Jewish Relations for the USCCB. As Chair of the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs from 1984 to 1987, he helped arrange the Pope's meetings with Jewish leaders in Miami and with Protestant leaders in Columbia, South Carolina.

Cardinal Keeler is the President of the American Division Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Chair of the Black and Native American Missions Board. He is Chairman of the Board of Catholic Charities, the largest non-governmental agency providing assistance to the needy of Maryland. He is president of the Cathedral Foundation and publisher of *The Catholic Review*.

For more information on the HUC-JIR Graduation, Investiture, and Ordination ceremonies in New York, Los Angeles, and Cincinnati, please visit <http://www.huc.edu/newspubs/pressroom/article.php?pressroomid=271>.

For more information, contact Jean Rosensaft, 212-824-2209 or jrosensaft@huc.edu.

View the national invitation for event details:

<http://www.huc.edu/external/email/09/03/graduation/>

*Founded in 1875, **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion** is the nation's oldest institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR educates men and women for service to American and world Jewry as rabbis, cantors, educators, and communal service professionals, and offers graduate and post-graduate programs to scholars of all faiths. With centers of learning in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, HUC-JIR's scholarly resources comprise renowned library and museum collections, the American Jewish Archives, biblical archaeology excavations, research institutes and centers, and academic publications. HUC-JIR invites the community to an array of cultural and educational programs which illuminate Jewish history, identity, and contemporary creativity and which foster interfaith and multiethnic understanding. Visit us at www.huc.edu.*

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