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Four Prominent Religious Leaders to Receive Honorary Doctorates

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Happenings

at *Salve Regina College*

Newport, R. I. . 847-6650

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1971

Four prominent religious leaders--a nun, a rabbi, a brother, and a priest-- will receive honorary doctorates at the twenty-first Commencement of Salve Regina College, Monday, May 24.

They are:

Sister Mary Regina Cunningham, R.S.M., superior general of the Sisters of Mercy of the Union, West Bethesda, Md.

Rabbi Theodore Lewis, M.A.T.C.D., rabbi of Touro Synagogue, Newport, R.I.

Brother Michael Reynolds, R.S.C., director of education for the Diocese of Ethiopia.

Very Rev. William Paul Haas, O.P., president of Providence College.

Sister Mary Christopher, R.S.M., president of the women's college, will confer a doctor of laws degree on Sister Cunningham; a doctor of sacred theology degree on Rabbi Lewis; a doctor of education degree on Brother Michael; and a doctor of humane letters degree on Father Haas. The ceremonies will take place at 11:00 a.m. on the ocean-side Ochre Court Terrace. (In the event of poor weather, the ceremonies will take place in the De La Salle Academy gymnasium, 356 Bellevue Ave., Newport.)

Father Haas, who is completing his six-year tenure as president of Providence College this summer, will be the main speaker at the Salve Regina exercises.

Sister Cunningham, who has headed the Sisters of Mercy of the Union since 1959, now governs more than 7,000 Religious at work in schools, hospitals, child-caring homes, and other institutions in this country as well as in Central America, South America, and the West Indies. A member of the Consultors for Christian Unity by papal appointment in 1968, she has also served as vice president of the Federation of Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, and chairman of the National Sister Formation Conference.

(more)

ADD ONE

Born in Antigo, Wis., Sister Cunningham earned her baccalaureate degree at St. Clare College, Milwaukee, and her master of education degree at Marquette University.

Rabbi Lewis came to the Touro Synagogue--oldest synagogue in America--from his native Dublin, in 1949. A disciple of the late Rabbi Dr. Isaac Herzog--who at different times was Chief Rabbi of Ireland and Israel--he received his early education in Irish schools before pursuing his rabbinic studies in Europe. Prior to his arrival in America, he served at the Adelaide Road Synagogue, Dublin.

In Newport, Rabbi Lewis is a member of the boards of directors of the Historical Society, Boys' Clubs, and Navy League. He is also civilian chaplain to the Newport Naval Base.

Brother Michael, who initially went to Africa, in 1961, as the first American principal of St. Joseph's School in Addis Ababa--Ethiopia's capital city--was named supervisor of all Roman Catholic schools in that country in 1964. Four years later, he assumed additional responsibilities as the country's Catholic Relief Service agent, serving all Catholic hospitals, clinics, leprosariums, churches, schools, and orphanages in Ethiopia.

A native of Providence and graduate of La Salle Academy, Brother Michael received his bachelor of arts degree at Catholic University and his master of arts degree at Manhattan College. A Christian Brother for more than 30 years, he successfully completed several administrative assignments on the secondary school level before beginning his African tenure. He is the brother of Sister Mary Consilia Reynolds, R.S.M., a member of the history department at Salve Regina.

Father Haas, who will return to the classroom to teach philosophy as the second Alumni Association Distinguished Professor at the University of Rhode Island next fall, taught at Emmanuel College, Providence College, Notre Dame University and Wabash College, before becoming the president of Providence College in 1965.

(more)

ADD TWO

In addition to his presidential duties, Father Haas has served as chairman of the Rhode Island Higher Education Council, a trustee of the New England Colleges Fund, Inc., and a member of the executive committee of the college and university department of the National Catholic Education Association. In Washington, D.C., he has been a member of the Advisory Council on Extension and Continuing Education of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and of the Commission of the Humanities in the Schools of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

Born in Newark, N. J., Father Haas earned his baccalaureate degree at Providence College, his lectorate in theology at the Pontifical Institute, Washington, D. C., and his doctor of philosophy degree at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. He was ordained a Dominican priest at Washington, D. C. in 1953.