

MARSHALL THEODORE MEYER

Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for an honorary degree MARSHALL THEODORE MEYER, scholar, writer, educator, rabbi and staunch defender of human rights. Born in New York and educated in the public schools of Norwich, Connecticut, Rabbi Meyer was further schooled at Dartmouth College, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary. Two of these institutions, Dartmouth College and Jewish Theological Seminary of America, have also conferred upon him honorary doctorates.

For more than a quarter of a century Dr. Meyer has served as a rabbi in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he founded the Comunidad Bet El, a congregation now numbering some one thousand families, and where he also founded and gave leadership to the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano, serving there as Rector and teacher of Midrash, Theology, Practical Rabbinics and Pastoral Psychiatry. Currently he also serves as Vice President of the University of Judaism in Los Angeles.

He is, in addition to being an active rabbi and educator, an editor as well, founding and editing the quarterly Spanish-Jewish journal *Majshavot*, the Library of the Science and History of Religions and "Ediciones Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano."

During the years of Argentina's agony, when the kidnapping, torture and murder of her people, many of them Jews, were too often ignored, Rabbi Meyer moved from the pulpit and academy into the streets. There he raised his voice in defiance of that nation's oppressive government and led a movement to eliminate the growing ugliness of anti-Semitism.

His heroic efforts have not gone unnoticed. He now serves on the Argentinian Presidential Commission on the Disappeared; he has received Argentina's "Order of the Liberator San Martin" for his strong defense of human rights; and B'nai B'rith has given him its Dor L'Dor Award for outstanding achievements in the service of humanity.

It is appropriate that Kalamazoo College, representing a religious community which, at its best, has stubbornly defended against all coercive force the freedom of intellectual inquiry and the sovereignty of the individual conscience, recognize on this occasion the signal contributions of one whose life and career have so dramatically inspired and defended those selfsame values.

Therefore, on behalf of the faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that upon MARSHALL THEODORE MEYER be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Divinity.