

– HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT –

THEODORE CARDINAL MCCARRICK

Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C., priest, and prominent advocate for the dignity and rights of all people, unflaggingly and generously employs his extraordinary gifts, especially his widely acknowledged wisdom and civility, in addressing controversial and divisive issues and in the pursuit of global justice and peace.

Born in New York City, Theodore Edgar McCarrick attended Fordham University and earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in history from St. Joseph's Seminary. Ordained for the Archdiocese of New York, he went on to earn a second master's degree in social science and a Ph.D. in sociology from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. where he served as Assistant Chaplain, Dean of Students, and Director of Development.

Named President of The Catholic University of Puerto Rico in Ponce, he led its major development before returning to the New York Archdiocese as Associate Secretary for Education, Assistant Priest, and the Cardinal's Secretary, then as Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar of East Manhattan and Harlem.

In 1981 he was named the first Archbishop of Metuchen and in 1986 Archbishop of Newark. In 2001 he was installed as Archbishop of Washington, D.C. and thus served as Chancellor of The Catholic University of America and President of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Elevated to Cardinal, he inaugurated several significant educational initiatives: opened a seminary for diocesan missionary priests, advocated for the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program for low-income families, and opened Cristo Rey High School, the first diocesan high school to open in decades.

Cardinal McCarrick was twice elected Chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration and served on additional Conference committees on domestic policy, international policy and aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. He has served on the Board of Catholic Relief Services, has addressed the United States Congress on behalf of immigrants and, while serving as Archbishop, implemented programs especially in support of the growing Hispanic communities in the Washington archdiocese. He was a founding member and served as President of the Papal Foundation, "which supports the world's poor, sick, and infirm through the construction and operation of shelters for homeless adults and children, hospitals and other health facilities, reconstruction of destroyed churches, construction of seminaries and retreat houses, providing relief for victims of natural disasters, and strengthening services for refugees and migrants" among other services.

Speaking five languages, he has visited many nations as a human rights advocate and to survey and address humanitarian needs. These nations include China, Cuba, Iran, Vietnam, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Rwanda, and Burundi. He has traveled to areas impacted by major natural disasters such as Central America, Sri Lanka, and post-Katrina Louisiana and Mississippi to ensure assistance and bring prayer to people in need. Most recently he has devoted his renowned diplomatic skills in support of religious tolerance, especially in the Middle East and Asia.

In 2000 the President of Lebanon named him an Officer of the Order of the Cedars of Lebanon and in that same year President Clinton presented him the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights. In 2010 he was awarded the Athenagoras Human Rights Award and has received the Cardinal Cushing Medal for the Advancement of Church Research by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. Recipient of honors and honorary degrees from numerous higher education institutions in the United States and beyond, Cardinal McCarrick (in 2010) received the Presidents' Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities for his personal service of exceptional quality to and significant advocacy of Catholic Higher Education. Most recently he was named Distinguished Visiting Scholar in the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress to study the growing critical role of religion in diplomacy and new responsibilities of religious leaders to work for peace and care of the world's poor.

For his capacious charity, his extraordinary service to Catholic Higher Education, his dedication, love, and limitless work promoting human rights, human dignity, justice, and peace, The College of New Rochelle confers on Theodore Cardinal McCarrick the degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.