

“THE TRAGIC COUPLE”: ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN JEWS & JESUITS

**An International Conference
Boston College, July 9-13, 2012**



Rabbi Abraham Heschel and Cardinal Augustin Bea, S.J.

RATIONALE

The Society of Jesus has been a leader in the Church's efforts at dialogue with Jews, including the role the Jesuit Cardinal Augustin Bea played in hammering out the groundbreaking declaration *Nostra Aetate* during Vatican II. Yet, the history of the relationship of this "tragic couple" has been often filled with bias and animosity, even though the Jesuit founder, Ignatius of Loyola, declared that he would consider it God's special grace to be of the same Jewish lineage of Christ and even though Jesuits of Jewish ancestry had played a crucial role in the foundation and development of the Jesuit Order. Driven by a desire for deepening the understanding and friendship between the Jewish people and the Society of Jesus, the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College is hosting this international conference on the history, nature, dynamics, and current status of the relation between Jews and Jesuits. This conference brings together scholars of different backgrounds to converse on this topic from an interdisciplinary perspective: biblical exegesis, history, literature, philosophy, theology, and spirituality.