



# YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

THE PRESIDENT

January 7, 2009

Rabbi Howard Joseph  
Spanish Portuguese Synagogue  
4894 St. Kevin Avenue  
Montreal, QC H3W 1P2  
CANADA

Dear Rabbi Joseph,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to receive a degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa* from Yeshiva University at an upcoming convocation and dinner this spring in Montreal.

The convocation will allow us to recognize you as an extraordinary presence in the North American rabbinate. Your reputation grew from your beginnings as a Yeshiva College and RIETS alumnus and promising young rabbi serving in fledgling synagogues in the New York area. This prepared you to lead the historic Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Montreal, where you have devoted 39 years of dynamic service. Under your guidance, the congregation experienced unprecedented growth. You pioneered innovative Torah learning initiatives and took important roles in numerous communal activities. You did this all while remaining an educator in well-respected academic institutions. Welcoming all Jews to your programs and services, you have encouraged tolerance and respect among our nation. You are an example of visionary leadership, guiding your community with wisdom and courage.

Best wishes to you and your wife, Dr. Norma Baumel Joseph, and warm regards from your son, Rabbi Joshua Joseph, and my colleagues Dr. Norman Lamm, Chancellor, and Vice President for University Affairs, Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, our university's liaison with the Canadian community.

Sincerely,

  
Richard M. Joel

