

# DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **POPE JOHN PAUL II HONORS RABBI SHELTON DONNELL OF TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM:**

*Bishop of Orange, Most Rev. Tod D. Brown Will Present the  
Benemerenti Medal*

**Orange, Calif., (June 7, 2005)** - In one of the last decisions of his papacy, the late Pope John Paul II awarded the Benemerenti Medal to Rabbi Shelton Donnell of Temple Beth Sholom. The papal honor is given in recognition of exceptional accomplishment and service. Pope Gregory XVI instituted the Benemerenti Medal in 1832 in recognition of civil courage.

The Most Reverend Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange, will confer the medal on Rabbi Donnell on Friday evening, June 10, 2005 at Temple Beth Sholom. The award comes on the eve of Rabbi Donnell's last Sabbath service. He will relocate to Israel having spent the greater part of his career in southern California. Rabbi Donnell has served Temple Beth Sholom for the past fourteen years.

"The late Holy Father elected to recognize Rabbi Donnell for his service to the Jewish community and for advancing Catholic/Jewish relations in Orange County," said Bishop Tod D. Brown. "While this honor is given to Rabbi Donnell, the papal honor extends to the entire Jewish community in our county."

Bishop Brown, who will be joined by other religious leaders Friday night, will express his appreciation to Rabbi Donnell and the Jewish community for their commitment to advancing Catholic/Jewish relations. The Benemerenti Medal bears the image of Pope Gregory XVI on one side and an angel holding a scroll with the word "Benemerenti" (good merit) surmounted by the papal emblems on the other side.

Temple Beth Sholom is located at 2625 North Tustin Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705, (714) 628-4600.

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